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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

True or false: How incumbent lawmakers will vote on the articles of impeachment against Gov. Fitial will influence my vote this November.

Let your voice be heard!
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INSIDE

BUSINESS



Two American scholars won the Nobel economics prize Monday for work on match-making.

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ASIA



Muslim rebels and the Philippine government took their first tentative step toward ending one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies.

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LIFE & STYLE



Hulk Hogan is suing after a sex tape of himself and a woman surfaces.

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Historic impeachment vote today



House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), left, emerges from the governor's main conference room yesterday morning after meeting with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other House members on the results of HealthTech Management Services' assessment report on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and revenue-generating measures, among other things. The speaker also said after the meeting that he's calling a House session at 2pm today to vote on a resolution to impeach the governor. Also in photo are the governor's senior policy advisor Dr. John Joyner, right, and Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan).

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

- Special committee not ready with report yet
- House minority slams speaker, Fitial for rushed vote

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

All roads lead to Capital Hill this afternoon as House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) set a 2pm session to act on a milestone resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 16 allegations of felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

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HOSPITAL ASSESSMENT AFFIRMS: 'Immediate health threat to NMI'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A comprehensive assessment on the status of the Commonwealth Health Center has confirmed that the CNMI's healthcare system is extremely inefficient and needs a complete overhaul in how it operates.

"The study indicates that the current structure of healthcare in the Commonwealth presents immediate threats to public safety, is extremely inefficient, and requires a complete change in method of operation. Due to the seriousness of these

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Fitial

Petition backs Fitial impeachment

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Private citizens presented the Legislature yesterday with over 650 signatures and over 300 comments supporting the impeachment of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in time for today's vote by the House of Representatives on the impeachment resolution. The House session is at 2pm.

The petition was initiated by Ed Propst in August and promoted by a dozen other individuals.

Some lawmakers interviewed yesterday are divided on the result of the petition and its impact on today's voting.

All the 29 lawmakers were sent electronic copies of the petition and names of the pe-

titioners, as well as personal comments from petitioners.

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), a governor's ally, said yesterday the petition is not a deciding factor in today's voting.

"We are basing the outcome of this impeachment committee on facts, not hearsay or opinions," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), a member of the House minority bloc, said the petition is "very encouraging."

"I am sure there are more individuals who are clamoring for change and good governance. For the most part, I am very encouraged," he said.

As of Oct. 10, there were 16,774 registered voters in the CNMI. The number of signa-

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Airport restrooms out of water the past two weeks. **PAGE 2**
Teen bystander helps cops nab alleged robber. **PAGE 5**

Local

Airport restrooms out of water the past two weeks

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Restrooms at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport have had no water in the last couple of weeks—a situation that has not only affected the operations of the airport's tenants but also travel agents who have been trying to persuade tourists to visit the CNMI.

Affected tenants and workers at the airport disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday morning that it was about two weeks when they started experiencing interrupted water supply, mostly in the restrooms, forcing them to bring their

own water.

A female employee of one of the airport's tenants who requested not to be named disclosed that "water was only made available to these restrooms when there is a scheduled flight that is coming into the CNMI, which is usually from 8am through 1pm, depending on the scheduled flights."

A concerned community member who happened to witness the situation also told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the "restroom situation" is very embarrassing for the CNMI, which is trying to woo more tourists.

Other affected tenants and airport

employees said the situation is due to "unresolved" leaks in the piping and drainage systems at the airport, resulting in some clogging in the restrooms. They said CPA sent notices to all tenants about the situation.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is the agency handling the operation and maintenance of the airport. Airport manager Ed Mendiola did not answer his phone yesterday, while CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero did not return calls.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, the tourism body, along with other

concerned agencies, was notified by CPA about the situation. He said CPA "is in the best position" to address the problem, citing the separation of agency functions.

Tenorio admitted that the "restroom situation" at the airport is not the first time because a similar situation happened before. He's confident that the situation will soon be addressed.

Saipan Tribune learned that CPA also informed the governor's office about the lack of water at the airport. This was confirmed by press secretary Angel Demapan yesterday. He said that CPA was

only able to restore the water supply yesterday.

"The administration has been made aware of this situation. The administration has also been informed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority that the agency is already handling this matter. The governor and lieutenant governor are hopeful that CPA, an autonomous agency, will act expeditiously to rectify this situation," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The press secretary, in a separate email yesterday afternoon, said, "CPA has advised that running water has been restored at the airport."

Alleged victim testifies against 'Grandpa Ping'

»Prosecution, defense rest case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The alleged victim of sexual assault took the witness stand yesterday in the ongoing jury trial of 62-year-old Jose Ilo Santos.

The prosecution and defense then rested their cases yesterday afternoon. Closing arguments will be this morn-

ing, Wednesday.

The girl, who was 8 years old when the alleged molestation occurred last year, testified that Santos called her inside his house and touched her private parts. The girl said she then returned home and locked the door.

When asked by assistant attorney general Margo Brown why she locked the door, the girl said she was scared of Santos. She said Santos told her not to tell anyone what happened. The girl said she eventually told her cousin and her mother about it.

Victim advocate Dixie Inos stood beside the girl during her testimony in an effort to make her feel comfortable.

The prosecution also called to the witness stand police officer Patrick Sablan, the officer-in-charge of the case.

Assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, who represents Santos, did not call any witnesses but moved for a judgment of acquittal. Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho denied it.

On Monday, a doctor from the Commonwealth Health Center testified that

the girl was very frightened when he examined her.

The doctor said a female colleague helped him complete the examination and they concluded that the girl had been violated.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Santos, also known as Grandpa Ping, with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree for allegedly molesting the then 8-year-old girl on April 23, 2011, and May 7, 2011, in Tanapag. The defendant pleaded not guilty.

Fund's trustee *ad litem* seeks \$34.6K compensation

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's trustee *ad litem* is billing the CNMI government for compensation amounting to \$34,620.80.

In a summary of fees and expenses filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI Monday, Joseph C. Razzano said the source of compensation for expenses of the trustee *ad litem* is the CNMI government, pursuant to the court's order dated Sept. 14, 2012.

Razzano said the CNMI government should pay within five days of the court's order to do so.

The trustee *ad litem*'s total professional fees amount to \$31,760 while reimbursement for costs and expenses amount of \$2,860.80, for a total of \$34,620.80.

Of the total professional fees, Razzano claims to have worked 62.55 hours at a rate of \$250, for a total of \$15,637.50.

The rest of the professional fees are for three other lawyers in the Guam-based Law Offices of Civile & Tang P.L.L.C. where Razzano is a member.

Razzano also claims to have incurred \$1,504 in per diem and \$1,356.80 in travel expenses, for a total of \$2,860.80.

Last Sept. 14, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the appointment of Guam tax lawyer Razzano to serve as trustee *ad litem* for the Fund.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the law firm of Civile and Tang will serve as trustee *ad litem* and Razzano will serve as the principal representative.

Tydingco-Gatewood appointed a trustee *ad litem* for the Fund and its board for purposes of participating in the pending litigation in a class action lawsuit filed by Betty Johnson.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the trustee *ad litem* shall have the authority, powers, and duties required and necessary over the "person" of the Fund to act on all matters that require board action.

The judge said the CNMI government shall be responsible for compensation and expenses for the trustee *ad litem* and all persons or entities employed or contracted by the trustee *ad litem*.

The judge said the court shall review the request for compensation for reasonableness by the 20th of each month, and shall direct that payment be made to the trustee *ad litem* for all compensation and expenses incurred and found by the court to be reasonable by the 25th of each month.



GUAM VISITORS

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta, left, welcomes the visiting group headed by Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo during a visit to the hospital on Friday. Babauta shared with the visiting group the challenges and immediate plans of the corporation to ensure the continued delivery of healthcare to people.

DCCA refines NMI's elderly employment program

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Improved educational outreach efforts to increase awareness about the Senior Community Service Employment Program or SCSEP are among the major changes incorporated in the CNMI State Plan Application of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao said in a phone interview that the changes were a result of a series of public hearings and meetings to discuss in detail the state plan, now with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for his signature.

Faisao said the educational outreach

would include continuous information dissemination to potential employers about the program through advertisements on the radio, television, and the newspapers, as well as distribution of brochures and flyers written in Chamorro, Carolinian, and English in public places like government offices, medical facilities, and grocery stores.

He said the agency will also conduct certification of eligibility among participants on "as needed basis" to ensure that individuals employed under the program are really qualified,



Faisao

thereby promoting fairness and equality to all hopeful applicants.

SCSEP, also known as Title V Program, is a community service and work-based training program for low-income persons 55 years or older who are unemployed, have poor employment prospects, and have the greatest economic need based on the income level guideline established by the federal government.

The program, which currently has 35 beneficiaries, is fully funded under the Older Americans Act.

Faisao noted that the program also

gives priority to individuals belonging to minority groups and those with "greatest social need," referring to individuals with needs caused by non-economic factors like physical and mental disabilities, language barriers, and cultural, social, or geographical isolation. "The isolation issue includes isolation caused by racial or ethnic status that restricts the ability of an individual to perform normal daily task or certain capacity of individuals to live independently," he added.

Faisao said that once the governor approves and signs the state plan, it will be submitted to the grantor agency, the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Off-duty guard assists tourist injured in moped crash

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

An off-duty security guard came to the aid of a female tourist who was hurt when the moped she was driving crashed on Middle Road, Navy Hill yesterday morning.

Jose Vito Cruz, 53, a security guard of G4S Security Services, helped the Japanese tourist stand up, brought her to a safe area in the parking lot of Twins Supermarket, and called 911.

King: Collective effort needed to boost literacy in the CNMI

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

A CNMI State Board of Education member seeking re-election emphasized the need for a collective effort in promoting literacy on the islands, saying the success and future of the Commonwealth is "directly correlated" to a literate and skilled workforce.

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday, Tanya Denise King said that enhancing literacy is a "collaborative process" necessary for human and social development, as well as imperative in curbing poverty, reducing child mortality, achieving gender equity, and ensuring a sustainable economy.

King, who is running for another four-year term to represent Rota on the board, defined literacy as "the ability in reading, writing, numeracy, visual communication, digital technology, critical thinking, speaking, and listening."

The incumbent board vice chairperson noted that countries with high literacy rates have made education their "first and main priority" and doing so requires partnership among stakeholders, which include the government, schools, business sector, and the family.

"Education must be the top priority for the CNMI government and its people," said King, adding that early intervention is key to giving the best opportunity for young members of the community to be literate.

King called for the implementation of language immersion programs that would allow children to learn their mother tongue and make them proficient in their second language, as well as developing strong relationships between teachers and parents of students to boost learning.

She also recommended creating a team of mobile teachers who can deploy to homes if children are not able to attend school, establishment of mobile libraries and computer centers in every village, and expanding school hours to give opportunity to students who are unable to finish their assignments at home due to lack of power or Internet connection.

King feels it is imperative for the Public School System to provide a quality vocational training program that she described as a "wise and essential

Seeing that the tourist was bleeding from her injuries, Cruz got tissue paper from the store and wiped the victim's bruises on her hands and legs with water.

After 20 minutes, an ambulance came and transported the tourist to Commonwealth Health Center. The tourist's female companion also joined her in the ambulance.

Saipan Tribune learned from witnesses that the victim and

her companion, both in their early 20s and guests at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, were separately riding mopeds on the outer lane of the highway on their way to Marpi.

One moped then lost control, possibly after hitting rocks brought by runoff near Twins Supermarket at 10:40am. The moped crashed on the inner lane. The second tourist pulled over to help her companion.

Cruz, who was coming from

investment" given the exodus of foreign workers.

This vocational training program, she said, is in addition to the programs that PSS already has such as the culinary arts and the ceramics classes, and it has to be available on Rota and Tinian. King called on educational leaders to "think outside the box" in improving the program to address the needs of students and the community.

"It's better to invest in our youth and their qualifications and the development of employment than to fund the economic and social costs of unemployment," she added.

King also cited the need to foster the entrepreneurial spirit in students to promote the ability of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to develop innovative and creative businesses that capitalize on the unique features and commodities of each island.

"Through a united vision, the CNMI will truly succeed," said King. "Now is the time for all stakeholders to put aside politics and to come together."

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King also recognized both PSS and the Rotary Club of Saipan in its efforts to promote literacy in the Commonwealth.

King was first elected to the board in 2007. She worked for the Public School System for 17 years as a teacher, accreditation coordinator, and guidance counselor. She was also employed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges to evaluate schools in Guam and Chuuk.

King earned her bachelor's degree in education from the University of Michigan and her master's degree in counseling from the Capella University. She has been in the CNMI for 22 years, the last 20 years of which were spent on Rota.

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the Navy Hill area, was about to proceed to Middle Road on his way to Garapan when he saw

the accident. He immediately came to their rescue. Since he speaks Japanese, he assisted the

victim and her companion, then repeatedly called for an ambulance. Other bystanders also helped the tourists.

The moped had only minor damage.

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HISTORIC

From Page 1

This comes despite the non-completion of a report by a special committee that the speaker formed in August to take up the articles of impeachment.

The House minority bloc, whose four members are in the impeachment panel, claimed yesterday that the speaker was taking direct orders from the governor to rush the voting, in time for the mobilization of Fitial supporters to gather at the Legislature today.

This is the first time in CNMI history that the House of Representatives will vote on a resolution impeaching the two-term governor.

This critical impeachment vote comes days ahead of the Nov. 6 mid-term elections. The governor heads the local Republican Party.

House minority bloc members who are in the Special Committee on Impeachment chaired by Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said yesterday the speaker's decision not to grant the committee's request for an extension to come up with a report and recommendation up to Friday—just two days from today—is “disappointing” and “very frustrating.”

“It's like pulling the rug from under (sic),” he said.

Deleon Guerrero said the panel granted the request of other members in the committee—particularly the governor's allies, vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan)—to bring back witnesses that already testified so they can make an “informed” decision. By doing so the panel went beyond the 30-day deadline.

Despite this, Deleon Guerrero said the committee did not sacrifice fairness, impartiality, and transparency.

“I'm saying that I feel right now, that we were set up for failure,” he said.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), second from right, addresses the media while Reps. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), left, Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), and Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), right, look on during a news briefing on the impact of today's House session set even before a Special Committee on Impeachment could complete its report and recommendation to the full House.

The committee is supposed to review today the synopsis of each of the allegations and the evidence gathered from witnesses and documents, and start voting on the 13 remaining articles, before coming up with a final report to the full House on Friday.

“I can only conclude that this is an attempt to prevent the materials from being put on the floor to prevent each member from being able to objectively review and make a decision. I think it is in the governor's interest not to have these materials appear before the members because it would be very hard for the members to vote ‘no’ on each article if they were to base their decisions on the materials before them so yes, anyone, any reasonable person, would come to that conclusion,” Deleon Guerrero said.

Cabrera, after meeting with the governor and some House members in the governor's main conference room yesterday, told the media he did not grant the extension request because the panel

had already a month to do its job.

When the speaker formed the committee, he announced that he's giving the special panel 30 days to review the resolution and come up with a report but it would be up to the committee to ask for an extension.

Cabrera acknowledged his previous statement, but he said the resolution impeaching the governor was “planned way way ahead.”

The speaker declined further media interviews, and so did other leadership members yesterday.

Under House rules, committees have up to 60 days to come up with reports and recommendations.

‘No backtracking’

House minority bloc members, however, believe the speaker is just following the orders of the governor—the subject of the impeachment.

“This is what I know. The reason why they can't backtrack on this decision is because they have been cam-

paigned every night and telling their supporters to come up on Wednesday and support their group. And because they've already announced that publicly, they have to abide by this schedule, that's why it's being held on Wednesday, that's why the extension cannot be granted,” Deleon Guerrero said.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said he believes the governor has been influencing the speaker “for the longest time.”

“He [speaker] is listening to the governor because the governor makes the orders, there is no question about that,” Dela Cruz said.

The impeachment resolution needs at least 14 “yes” votes in the 20-member House to impeach the governor, and six “yes” votes in the nine-member Senate to convict him. The House leadership is aligned with the governor.

These allegations involve the temporary release of a federal inmate in January 2010 to give the governor a private massage at his residence, signing of a sole-source, \$190.8-million power purchase agreement for 25 years despite lack of a full economic analysis, a sole-source award of a \$392,406 ARRA management contract, failure to remove his former attorney general despite violations of laws in hosting the governor's delegate candidate, and failure to ensure law enforcement agencies perform their duties of serving—not preventing—penal summons on the same former attorney general, Edward T. Buckingham.

Deleon Guerrero said he asked the Legislative Bureau director to coordinate with the Department of Public Safety, to ensure there's police presence during the House session today “just to ensure the process is done in a peaceful and orderly manner.”

‘Wholesale vote or piecemeal vote’

Dela Cruz said there are two ways the

House leadership could take up House Resolution 17-111, the impeachment resolution that Deleon Guerrero and six other minority bloc members co-authored.

He said the leadership could vote on HR 17-111 as a whole. The other one would be to vote on each of the 16 articles based on the resolution.

Dela Cruz said if the leadership chooses to vote on the resolution as a whole, it would “skirt” each article which he said should be considered individually based on their merits.

“Now if the option by the leadership is to take up the House resolution as a whole, then I believe that due process is not really given to each and every article and that is almost shortchanging, if you will, the work that the committee has done,” he said.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) said he is “disappointed” that the committee's work has been “thrown out the window” and that it is “unfair” to witnesses called in to testify and submit documents and other materials.

The eight-member Special Committee on Impeachment has four each from the House leadership and the minority bloc.

From the minority, the members are Reps. Joe Deleon Guerrero, Frank Dela Cruz, Tony Sablan, and Ray Tebuteb.

Committee members that are in the leadership are Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro and Reps. Fred Deleon Guerrero, Stanley Torres, and Joe Palacios.

All impeachment panel members are seeking re-election this November.

The House minority bloc is inviting the public to attend the House session.

“We do understand there's going to be a faction coming in. This is the leadership's faction. We want all others that feel that this impeachment process needs to move forward to the Senate, we again appeal for you to come and attend the session,” Dela Cruz said.

PETITION

From Page 1

tures gathered is some 4 percent of the registered voters.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said the petition “might make

a difference, but it also depends on whether lawmakers took the time to look at it at all.”

Another concerned citizen, Glen Hunter, encouraged members of the community yesterday to “take the time to show up at the House of Representatives” during the 2pm session, and

make their voices heard. Hunter has been an active supporter of the move to impeach the governor.

“This is one of the most important sessions of the House. I hope people would show up and if they can't show up physically, I encourage them to send email or call their rep-

resentatives to support the impeachment resolution,” Hunter said.

The petitioners also presented over 300 comments on impeaching the governor. They include, “Fitial is a blatantly dishonest and self-serving politician, who seems to see himself as king of the CNMI, not an

elected servant.”

Today's vote on the impeachment resolution comes days before the Nov. 6 mid-term elections.

In September, Fitial supporters and those who support his impeachment held separate rallies to drum up support for their causes.

IMMEDIATE

From Page 1

issues, we need to quickly develop a new model in which quality of essential health care is improved and delivered in an efficient manner,” said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday.

The study was conducted by HealthTech, which was commissioned by the Office of the Governor using a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs to do a top-to-bottom assessment of the public hospital. The objective was to determine the true condition of CHC and how it could improve its services. The analysis examined 42 different areas of hospital operations.

Among the recommendations that need to be accomplished within 30 days are the issuance of a proposal to hire a “turnaround management team” to quickly stabilize hospital operations and begin implementing the recommendations.

This turnaround management team will push for the temporary hiring of a team of experienced professionals for just six months to provide services as chief executive officer, chief nursing

officer, chief financial officer, and business office manager.

Currently, the corporation's management team is mostly made up of department heads formed early this year and directly reporting to CEO Juan N. Babauta.

Calls made to Babauta yesterday yielded no response.

Corporation board chair Joaquin Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that he needs to first read and review the report.

This early, however, Torres is concerned about where to get the money to hire a professional management team for the hospital. He said he needs to see the rationale behind each recommendation.

HealthTech also recommended other actions to be taken within 30 days.

This includes implementing a plan of correction based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services inspection; hiring a utilization review nurse; meeting and building consensus with employees and physicians regarding problems and suggested improvements; collecting unpaid Medicaid claims; improving collection from insurance carriers; developing a staffing and productivity improvement program; resolving billing backlogs; requesting for

emergency funding to ensure enough resources; meeting with vendors to resolve delinquent accounts and continue critical supplies; immediately collecting patient information data; reconciling cash; developing balance sheets; preparing financial statements; and identifying critical supplies.

HealthTech also recommends expanding some services such as imaging, gastrointestinal procedures, laboratory, physical therapy services, oncology, and urology to reduce reliance on off-island services and increase revenue, among others.

The report provides a summary of recommendations for each department, ranging from minor improvements such as daily posting of expenses and revenues to outsourcing of accounts receivable services.

Some of these specific recommendations include eliminating or combining staff in six areas; using government procurement agencies to reduce costs; reducing overtime; increasing the number of dialysis technicians; separating public health functions from hospital services; and reducing medical referrals by expanding on-island services.

‘We need to work together’

Fitial pledged yesterday to quickly resolve the crisis at the hospital and emphasized the need for all stakeholders to work together.

Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos shared the report during a leadership meeting attended only by a handful of lawmakers.

The governor expressed disappointment at the absence of several lawmakers at the meeting.

“It's truly disturbing that these lawmakers continue to put politics before the interests of the people of the Commonwealth. They know that we have so much issues that warrant not just our attention, but our collaboration as elected leaders. Their absence and refusal to work together is truly an embarrassment and an insult to our people,” said Fitial.

Fitial also wrote the Legislature yesterday, citing the critical need to resolve the crisis at the hospital.

“This review indicates that there are significant shortcomings in our healthcare system, and that immediate changes are required in order to meet the needs of our community. The report indicates that the problems are widespread throughout all sectors of our healthcare system. These problems

are longstanding and are not reflective of the inadequacies of the current management team, but rather the ineffectiveness of the model we have been using for delivery of healthcare,” he said.

In the coming weeks, the Fitial administration will be meeting with legislative leaders and the community to identify the most effective way to improve medical services and how to immediately implement the changes recommended.

Inos said the report indicates inadequacies in the current business model and the need for change.

“We need to provide quality care to the people of the Commonwealth, but it must be done in a manner that recognizes our financial limitations. However, recent problems with the healthcare system indicate that we need to move forward quickly on this issue. Because of the high cost of medical services, this will require the development of a creative approach and cooperation of all sectors of the community. The business model that seems to be most appropriate for our needs seems to be a combination of private and public partnership that can lower costs while still providing quality medical care,” he said.

Teen bystander helps cops nab alleged robber

A teenage bystander was instrumental in the arrest of a habitual offender who allegedly had just robbed a female tourist in Garapan Monday night.

The victim positively identified the suspect, 23-year-old Michael Jordan Cabrera, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong yesterday.

The victim, a 26-year-old Chinese tourist, sustained a small bruise on the right shoulder caused by the strap of her purse, which was ripped off. Police recovered her wallet.

Tarkong said police officers responded on Monday at 10:08pm to a reported purse snatching incident near the Family Building in Garapan.

Tarkong said police investigation showed that the victim and her husband were walking by Happy Market when the sus-

pect approached and grabbed her purse from behind.

The suspect, described as 5'11" tall, skinny, and wearing a black shirt and red shorts, ran west on the access road between Happy Market and Tun Kiku Market.

The couple chased the suspect and yelled for help. A bystander, an 18-year-old male, was outside his house when he heard the screams for help.

The teen helped the victims search for the robber, who was later identified as Cabrera. The Good Samaritan spotted the ex-convict and chased him.

Police officers saw the bystander chasing Cabrera near Chang Ming Store.

Police officers Tyrone Teregeyo and Myron Laniyo continued the pursuit on foot. The officers spotted Cabrera and yelled at him to stop, but the suspect continued to run by the

J&G Sablan Water Company.

The chase reached the Happy Market area where the suspect threw away the brown wallet. The officers then caught up with Cabrera.

In August 2009, then Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed a two-year prison sentence on Cabrera for burglary and violation of probation in a 2007 criminal conviction.

Manglona said that Cabrera has shown no respect for the law even at a young age by committing more crimes.

In October 2011, Cabrera and two other men were arrested for allegedly robbing at knifepoint a man outside Town House in Chalan Kanoa. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Close to 1,800 absentee voters register for mid-term elections

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission registered a total of 1,766 absentee voters for this year's mid-term elections.

Absentee voters were given until Oct. 12 to send their requests for absentee ballots through postal mail and email. This is pursuant to law that authorizes 25 days to receive such a request before the Nov. 6 polls.

Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the bulk of absentee voters come from Saipan with total of 713, while Tinian recorded a total of 384 and Rota posted 669.

For Saipan, election district 1 has the following breakdown of absentee voters: San Antonio, 57; San Vicente, 160; and Kolberville, 47.

Election district 2, which covers Chalan Kanoa and Susupe, has a total of 61 absentee voters, while election district 3 posted 192 absentee voters: 30 from Oleai and 162 from Garapan.

For election district 4, Tanapag has a total of 26 absentee voters; San Roque has 32; Capital Hill, 29; and Northern Islands, one absentee voter.

For election district 5, which covers Kagman, the commission has a total of 108 absentee voters.

According to Guerrero, the absentee record this year shows an increase from previous election years, which usually garnered about 1,500 absentee voters.

Based on the agency's voter registration statistics, as of Oct. 10, the CNMI has a total of 16,774 voters for this midterm polls, including registered absentee voters.

The number of overall registered voters is subject to change as CEC deletes individual voters who are convicted felons or have been pronounced dead.

Early voting for Saipan, Tinian, Rota

Guerrero yesterday reminded the public that early voting for Saipan, Rota, and Tinian will begin on Oct. 27.

This is pursuant to election law that authorizes early voting 10 days prior to election day. For the Northern Island, early voting is ongoing until Nov. 5—or 45 days before the elections.

Guerrero said polling places for all three senatorial districts will open at 8am and close 4pm each day, inclusive of weekends and holidays.

The polling places for the early voting period are: Rota DPS and Songsong Village on Rota; Tinian DPS and San Jose on Tinian; and the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Saipan.

For the Nov. 6 election, the polling places are the following:

- Precinct 1A (San Antonio area) Hopwood Junior High School cafeteria
- Precinct 1B (San Vicente/Dandan area) Dandan Elementary School
- Precinct 2 (Chalan Kanoa/Susupe) Joeten Kiyu Public Library
- Precinct 3A (Oleai/Chalan Laulau area) Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium
- Precinct 3B (Garapan area) Garapan Elementary School cafeteria
- Precinct 4A (Tanapag area) Tanapag Elementary cafeteria
- Precinct 4B (San Roque area) GTC Elementary School
- Precinct 4C (Capitol Hill area) Jesus Mafnas Legislative Building
- Precinct 4D (Northern Islands) Northern Islands
- Precinct 5 (Kagman area) Kagman Community Center
- Precinct 6 (Tinian) Tinian Elementary cafeteria
- Precinct 7 (Rota) NMC Campus-Rota



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FOR U.S. DELEGATE

CNMI FIRST



A Delegate Of, For & By The People

Hafa A dai, Buenas yan Saludu, Tirow people of the CNMI:

As your Republican Candidate for the U.S. Delegate office, I humbly ask for your vote of confidence this coming election.

For twenty-three years. I have had the privilege to serve in various schools and teach children the value of education. As your representative, allow me to continue that work at a higher level.

The CNMI is facing turbulent times. Our people are unhappy. The cost of power and water is crippling our economy. Many businesses have closed shop. Residents, unable to find good paying jobs at home, have fled elsewhere in search of greener pastures while those left behind, must live in a climate of uncertainty where highly skilled jobs offer low wage opportunities with no relief from the rising costs of living. Families, unable to make ends meet, have joined the jobless on the welfare line and many have returned to subsistence farming and fishing for survival. In these hard times, the elderly, the disabled, and the poor are the first to suffer and with Medicaid being cut, the CNMI's problems are only deepening.

Our Covenant states that the U.S. government “shall assist the CNMI Government in its effort to achieve a progressively higher standard of living for its people.” As part of the Covenant, the CNMI sacrificed over two-thirds of Tinian property in the name of national defense. We have lived up to our end and Washington needs to live up to theirs. As delegate, I will be your voice in Washington, to air your concerns and safeguard your interests.

If elected, I will work very closely with the U.S. Congress to address our economic, social, educational, utility infrastructure, and healthcare needs. I will work against pending immigration issues that will negatively affect our indigenous population. I will work to provide continued funding for our present Commonwealth-wide fishing and agricultural industries. I will work to request assistance from our U.S. Congress to help our tourism industry. I will work to tap all possible forms of grants and assistance available to the CNMI from the Federal Government. I will work to continue to help and assist our “Manamko”, our children with special needs, our youth, our women, our students and families abroad, our indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian communities, our military veterans and soldiers, and our Commonwealth.

Our people deserve a brighter future. The road will not be easy but I believe that with ACTION, PERSEVERANCE, KNOWLEDGE and FOCUS, we can achieve this goal.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow, Thank you!

Ignacia I. Demapan
Dr. Ignacia Tudela Demapan

**Paid for by: Committee-to-Elect,
Treasurer David S. Demapan**

Cereal products recalled from Saipan stores

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental Health has removed from store shelves several cases of Kellogg's cereal products after it received a recall notice from the manufacturer, which is voluntarily retrieving select products from the market due to possible health hazards.

BEH's inspection and enforcement unit staff Lily Kapileo disclosed to *Saipan Tribune*

that they have so far found and recalled a total of 75 cases of the recalled products, all of which were removed from stores on Saipan. Inspections were ongoing as of yesterday on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota

As per the Food and Drugs Administration recall notice, Kellogg's Frosted & Unfrosted Mini-Wheats bite size were being recalled due to possible presence of fragments of flexible metal mesh from a manufacturing part. The company has

initiated a voluntary recall of the cereal and products covered by the recall include Frosted Mini-Wheats Bite Size Original and Mini-Wheats Unfrosted Bite Size with the letters KB, AP, or FK before or after the "Best If Used Before" date.

"The BEH teams are working closely with the wholesaler and main distributor in regards to these affected products. At present, 67 cases of the 3800038828 and eight cases of 380007338 were being put

on hold for proper disposal," Kapileo said yesterday.

The bureau, according to Kapileo, receives recall notices from FDA almost daily. As a process, inspectors immediately visit stores to check if the recalled items are available or are distributed on island.

Kapileo said the number of recalled cereal products may increase in the coming days

following the completion of inspections in the CNMI. None of the affected products have been found on Rota and Tinian stores so far.

Kapileo is alerting consumers that if the recalled items are still in their homes, they should immediately dispose of the product.

In a public statement earlier this week, the food manufac-

turer said the affected boxes of cereals range from single servings up to jumbo sizes of 70 ounces and up.

For a specific list of affected serial numbers and their respective "sell-by" dates, visit the Kellogg's company website. In 2010, the company also pulled a variety of its breakfast cereals off store shelves because of "odd colors and odors."

EQIP seeks to help farmers learn conservation practices

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Farmers, ranchers, and private forest land owners may qualify for financial and technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to implement or install conservation practices on eligible land through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program or EQIP.

Established in the 2008 Farm Bill, EQIP aims to provide a single voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers to address significant natural resource needs and objectives.

Nationally, the program offers technical and financial as-

sistance, 60 percent of which targets livestock-related natural resource problems while the other 40 percent is for more general conservation priorities.

To become eligible for the program, applicants must lease, own, or manage land and must have clear control of the land.

Activities under EQIP, which offers multi-year agreements to implement conservation practices, need to be carried out following a conservation plan that the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide for the successful candidate based on objectives to address a resource need.

NRCS will make payments

for conservation practices needed at the site, and these payments will cover a portion of the cost to install conservation practices and may also encourage the successful candidate to perform land management practices like integrated pest management, irrigation water management, or wildlife habitat management.

Application deadline for the 2012-2013 funding is on Dec. 21.

For more information, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip, www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmland/2008 or www.usda.gov/farmland. You may also call 233-3415 (Saipan), 433-1400 or 9245 (Tinian), 532-9494 or 285-4233 (Rota).

Safety First donates first aid kits to GMS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Safety 1st general manger James Lee, far back, and Safety 1st accountant Anita Quilantang, left, third row, join the group from Green Meadow School representing GMS PTSA and STUCO who received the donation of first aid kits. First row, left to right, Mikee Mendoza, Aljanah Manabat, and En Ming Caddac; second row, left to right, Liz Espiritu, Pionnah Gregorio, Ian Ranin, Joseph Yanto, and GMS PTSA president Efen Caddac. With Quilantang in third row is GMS president Mila Merjilla.

Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc. recently donated 15 first aid kits to Green Meadow School & Daycare.

GMS president Mila Merjilla said the donation comple-

ments what the school and daycare already have, enhancing further compliance with government safety requirements.

The school's management and staff, Parents Teachers As-

sociation, and student council expressed their sincere appreciation to Safety 1st Systems CNMI and to its general manager, James Lee, for donating the items. **(GMS)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW12-RFP-004

PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Acting Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to provide **Security Services for the Marpi Solid Waste Facility (MSWF)**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Preference is available to U. S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after October 17, 2012 at the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950. A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station on November 2, 2012. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Alex S. Chong, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762 no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, November 7, 2012.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Relevant Qualification & Experience of the Firm, Personnel & Staff: | 45% |
| 2. Past Experience or Equivalent on Similar Projects: | 35% |
| 3. Current Workload of the Firm and Ability to Commit Staff to the Project: | 10% |
| 4. Price: | 10% |

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW12-RFP-004." For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, November 9, 2012. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, November 9, 2012, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than November 9, 2012 and must be received no later November 21, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of proposal.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposal and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussion, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by proposers.

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with § 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All response to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands THIRTEENTH TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan San Jose Village, Tinian MP 96952 CNMI USA Tel.: (670) 433-3470 Facsimile: (670) 433-0814

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Thirteen Tinian Municipal Council hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Session No. 13-10 on Saturday, October 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Municipal Council Conference Room regarding the appointment of Ms. Lydia F. Barcinas to the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Testimony of the Mayor
4. Testimony of the Appointee
5. Public Testimony
6. Finding and Recommendation by the EAGI Committee, Chairman
7. Miscellaneous
8. Adjournment

/s/ Estevan P. Cabrera
Chairman

Robert T. Torres
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No.: 234-7859
Fax No.: 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LYDIA VALERA PARKS, Petitioner,	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0087 FCD
vs.	NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT
STEPHEN FRANCIS PARKS, Respondent.	

NOTICE is hereby given that Petitioner Lydia Valera Parks, through counsel, Robert T. Torres, has filed a Motion for Default Judgment in the above-styled case. The hearing on said Motion will be heard on October 29, 2012, at 1:30pm, by Honorable Judge Kenneth Govendo at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated on September 27, 2012.

Sabrina, Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk
Superior Court

Firm’s request to stop 2 ex-workers from working for competitor denied

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has denied an ambulance company’s request to stop two of its former employees from working for a competitor.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied St. Michael’s Medical Response’s motion for preliminary injunction that seeks to restrain John Benedict T. Pelisamen and Michael Manibusan Takai from working for Priority Care.

Judge Manglona also denied St. Michael’s request for an injunction to restrain Priority Care, its employees, including Pelisamen and Takai, and associates from servicing or soliciting St. Michael’s customers.

The judge also denied St. Michael’s remaining request for a preliminary injunction.

Whether St. Michael’s is likely to succeed on the merits of its claims, Judge Manglona ruled that St. Michael has not shown it

will likely suffer irreparable harm if the injunction is not granted.

“Plaintiff has failed to demonstrate that it is entitled to a preliminary injunction,” said the judge in an order issued Friday.

Judge Manglona said the harm to St. Michael’s if the injunction is denied pales in comparison to the harm to Pelisamen and Takai if the injunction is granted.

Saint Michael’s is suing Department of Public Safety’s Fire chief Thomas M. Manglona and others for allegedly conspiring to destroy the company’s business.

August Healthcare Group LLC, owner of Saint Michael’s Medical Response, through counsel Braddock J. Huesman, alleged that Thomas Manglona conspired with Joaquin C. Manglona to form a new ambulance company, Priority Care, in an effort to harm St. Michael’s.

According to Huesman, it was the defendants intent to run St. Michael’s out of business by using Thomas Manglona’s position within DPS to harass

and interfere with St. Michael’s operation.

Aside from Thomas and Joaquin Manglona, August Healthcare Group also named co-defendants Takai, Pelisamen, and Marianas Global Ventures LLC, which owns Priority Care.

Thomas and Joaquin Manglona are cousins and Joaquin is one of the members of Priority Care.

Takai used to work with St. Michael’s as an emergency medical technician and ambulance attendant, while Pelisamen previously worked with St. Michael’s as an ambulance operator.

The plaintiff is suing Thomas Manglona for violation of due process, malicious prosecution, and equal protection.

The plaintiff is suing all defendants for conspiracy; Takai and Pelisamen for breach of contract; and Priority Care for tortious interference with existing contract.

Saint Michael’s is demanding unspecified damages. The com-

pany also sought a court order preventing Thomas Manglona from investigating and harassing St. Michael’s business and business relationships.

In a motion for preliminary injunction, Saint Michael’s asked the court to prevent Pelisamen and Takai from working for Priority Care and from soliciting St. Michael’s customers.

The plaintiff wants the court to prevent Priority Care from allegedly transporting and collecting fees from current and former St. Michael’s customers.

St. Michael’s also asked the court to stop Jack Manglona from allegedly contacting and soliciting St. Michael’s customers and from offering kickbacks and bribes to current and former customers of St. Michael’s.

In her order, Judge Manglona said an injunction that bars Pelisamen and Takai from working for Priority Care would deprive them of the ability to earn their livelihood in a highly specialized sector of health care

on Saipan.

Furthermore, Judge Manglona said, the public will be harmed if stopping Takai and Pelisamen from working for Priority Care reduces Priority Care’s ability to serve its customers to the point of removing St. Michael’s only competitor.

St. Michael’s claims that Priority Care, through Takai and Pelisamen, are using their proprietary customer list to unfairly complete with St. Michael’s.

“However, St. Michael’s admits to having lost only three customers to Priority Care through the alleged use of the customer list,” the judge said.

The judge said St. Michael’s customer list is something that may be determined by Priority Care without Takai and Pelisamen’s assistance.

St. Michael’s argued that because Takai and Pelisamen have memorized the customer list and patient information, which it claims is the heart of its business, and because the Priority

Care defendants continue to use the information, St. Michael’s has suffered irreparable harm.

But Judge Manglona determined that while a customer list and data can be considered trade secrets, defendants make a convincing argument that Saipan is such a small community that the names of those needing health-care transportation services would be public knowledge.

The judge said it would be easy to know who utilizes the services of St. Michael’s or the Fire Department by soliciting others or merely observing the customers transported by St. Michael’s or the Fire Department to the one public hospital or the few private clinics on island.

Therefore, Judge Manglona said, the list of customers is not necessarily a trade secret in the industry.

“As an injunction may not issue without a showing of irreparable harm, the court need not proceed to the other factors,” she added.

NMC ratchets up education campaign on need to change mission statement

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Unlike most colleges and universities across the U.S., the Northern Marianas College has its mission statement embedded in the CNMI Constitution and it has not been revisited or updated for more than 25 years.

Frankie M. Eliptico, director

for external affairs, said yesterday that this prompted the NMC to work with the Legislature in getting on the Nov. 6 ballot an initiative that would give the college the authority and flexibility to establish and periodically revisit its mission statement.

Initiative 17-12, if passed, would allow NMC to establish a mission statement that is

relevant and would reflect the evolving needs of the island community, said Eliptico at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan’s Giovanni’s restaurant.

Eliptico noted that Initiative 17-12 does not aim to radically change NMC’s mission statement, saying that the initiative only aims to amend the word

“mission” to “purpose.”

He said the college will involve all stakeholders—board members, faculty and staff, students, business sector, and the rest of the community—when coming up with the actual mission statement, which would reflect NMC’s new capabilities such as its online program.

Eliptico also emphasized that


the initiative will help the college meet accreditation standards, which require institutions to periodically revisit and update their mission statement.

He pointed out that success rate of passing initiatives is “not very good,” that’s why NMC is doing its best given its limited resources to raise awareness and understanding on the need

to change the college’s mission statement.

“We’re asking for that authority to have that ability. The college is supporting this initiative and we hope to get your support in helping to pass it as well,” said Eliptico.

For more information about the initiative, visit www.nmc-net.edu.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-003

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-003
GATE VALVE & FIRE HYDRANT REPLACEMENT KOBLERVILLE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement in Koblerville, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The work consists of excavation & removal of existing gate valves and installation of new 6-inch and 8-inch gate valve and fire hydrant assemblies connected to a 6-inch or 8-inch main waterline. Payment is only for the item as completely installed and accepted by the CUC. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The Bidding Documents may be picked-up, upon receipt of payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) on an electronic disk file; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 23, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement Koblerville, Saipan** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 14, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 29, 2012** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW12-IFB-008

CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN BOATING SAFETY BUILDING, TINIAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Tinian Boating Safety Building, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after October 17, 2012 at DPW Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. However, the local Business Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on November 07, 2012, 1:30 p.m. local time at the Tinian Boating Safety Building. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on November 16, 2012 to **Mr. Arthur B. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Arthur B. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer’s Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder’s responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **“DPW12-IFB-008”**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time November 28, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time November 28, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pic.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than November 28, 2012 and must be received no later than December 10, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, December 11, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on November 28, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, in certified check, Cashier’s Check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: “Credit Account No. 44660”. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit under penalty of perjury:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov’t Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Two-Hundred Forty (240) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (US\$100.00) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ ANKETOT T. OGUMORO
Acting Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

GEC sets up to help soldiers vote

By CPT KEN OLA
GUAM NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Over 600 soldiers from the 1-294th Infantry Regiment are preparing for their training in California for three weeks starting in the last week of October, which would mean they are going to miss the vote in the general election on Nov. 6.

When the Guam Election Commission realized the soldiers will be away for training, they went into action and began coordination to provide the Guam Army Guard members a chance to cast their ballot.

Over the Guam Guard's two-day drill this weekend, the GEC set up their registration and voting booths at one of the buildings in the Guam Guard's Barigada Readiness Center.

GEC executive director Maria Pangelinan said she wanted to ensure the soldiers got an opportunity to vote.

"We initiated conversation with the National Guard, and started something actually in the primary election... When we heard that there was a deploy-



SFC PETER EUSTAQUIO/GUAM NATIONAL GUARD
Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment fill out necessary paperwork to cast their votes.

ment, we contacted the Guard, in a very indirect way, on an unofficial basis, and found out there was this situation. So we're here. The Guam Election Commission is all about getting as fair and honest an election as possible, and getting the voter

turnout up, and the registration numbers up," Pangelinan said.

"We have a federal mandate to extend the right to vote, as much as possible, to our military folks," she added.

Soldiers trudged through the rain Saturday morning and

walked to the impromptu polling station to cast their vote.

SPC Chrissy Castro, from Foxtrot Company, said she was pleased to be able to have the chance to cast her ballot and not miss this election.

"I think it's great that we get to vote early... It shows that our voice is going to be counted even though we won't be here. It's giving us a chance to pick our leaders," she said.

There were over 300 soldiers registered to vote on the list given to GEC, according to Pangelinan. However, they were also registering soldiers who were not on the voting rolls due to a variety of reasons, as long as they showed proof of citizenship.

A total of about 180 Guam Guard soldiers were able to cast their ballots during that time. The early voting was only open to soldiers who were going to be off-island for training.

The 1-294th Infantry Regiment is slated to deploy to Afghanistan early next year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

FOA presents *Deathtrap* this coming weekend

The Friends of the Arts will be kicking off its 2013 season this weekend with its presentation of Ira Levin's *Deathtrap*, a plot-twisting, two-act murder mystery that holds the record for the longest-running comedy-thriller

on Broadway. The FOA's version will be starring Leo Goode and Bernard Rivera, who also brought the public *Sleuth* this past spring.

Come to the MHS Dolphin Theater and enjoy the show, Fri-

day, Oct. 19; Saturday, Oct. 20; and Sunday, Oct. 21. The cost is the same as for previous FOA plays: \$15 for adult non-members of FOA, \$12 for adult members of FOA, and \$8 for students.

FOA also has its season

tickets available for the 2013 season. Season tickets will be available at \$40 for adults and \$25 for students.

For tickets contact Frank Gibson at 287-7476 or flgibson@yahoo.com. (FOA)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS PTSA meeting today

Saipan Southern High School will hold its PTSA meeting today, Oct. 17, starting at 6pm at the Manta Café. Teachers are offering extra credit and important matters will be discussed. (PR)

Marine Corps training on FDM

The U.S. Marine Corps will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Oct. 18, from 7pm to 9pm. The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air

and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (PR)

PTSA meeting for all Kagman public schools

All parents and guardians of students who attend the Kagman Elementary School, ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School, and Kagman High School are being informed that there will be a joint PTSA meeting at the Kagman High School cafeteria on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, from 6pm to 7pm. The agenda will include the election of PTSA officers for all Kagman public schools and the selection of school representatives to the Kagman PTSA Committee. For more information, call the KHS Main Office at 664-3780, KES Main Office at 664-3911, or COJHS Main Office at 664-4100. (PR)

LAOLAO COOP STUDENT ORIENTATION

Kagman High School students under the Cooperative Education Program meets with LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort for student orientation. For the last three years LaoLao Bay has been a huge supporter of the KHS CO-OP Program and continues to hire and train student interns. From left, LaoLao Bay operations manager Tony Satur, KHS CO-OP student interns, Jack San Nicolas, and CO-OP Instructor Chris Tenorio.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 17, 2000

PSS receives computer surplus from DRMO

Six used computer hardware have been provided by the Defense Reutilization Marketing Office (DRMO) in Guam for the students of the Public School System here, according to Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho. The Saipan lawmaker made arrangement to acquire the surplus computers which range from 486DX50 to Pentium class with Windows95 operating system and Microsoft Office installed. He is set to turnover the equipment to PSS tomorrow at the Procurement and Supply Office in Lower Base. He wrote to Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos that his staff will be assisting the schools in the initial setup of the system.

Bill clips DOLI's power to hear labor disputes

Legislation diminishing the government's role in reviewing employment contract of nonresident workers has cleared the House of Representatives after insertion of provisions that will ensure workers' protection. Under the amended version of HB 12-275, offered by Judiciary and Government Operations Committee chair Rep. Dino M. Jones, the Department of Labor and Immigration will also be stripped of the authority to hear disputes arising from the contract forged between an employee and employer. If it becomes law, it will be handed over to the court to litigate the matter, instead of through the administrative proceeding conducted by DOLI, which is stipulated in existing policies.

Oct. 17, 2002

CIP drawdowns jump to \$24.6M in FY02

The CNMI government has managed to draw down some \$24.64 million in Capital Infrastructure Project funds in Fiscal Year 2002-a 21-percent improvement on the \$20.32 million that was drawn down in the previous fiscal year. This brings to \$49.94 million the total amount of CIP funds that were drawn down by the CNMI government from Fiscal Years 1999 through 2002. Gov. Juan N. Babauta said this is a noteworthy development for the CNMI government in that it signifies that CIP projects are now moving ahead, with the effect of increasing local employment opportunities and having more money circulating in the domestic economy.

CPA joins clamor for exemption from US ports lockout

The Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday said that the heavy dependence of the Northern Marianas on the sea transport system to bring in goods from the mainland United States should be a valid justification to exempt the CNMI from any agreement with the Pacific Maritime Association. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the ports authority supports Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio's clamor for the Commonwealth's exemption from any future lockout that may hit ports in the West Coast. Salas, in a letter to the office of the CNMI Resident Representative to Washington DC, disclosed that about 24-25 percent of all shipments to the Northern Marianas in 2000, 2001 and 2002 comes from the mainland United States through West Coast ports.

Oct. 17, 2003

CRM: CUC didn't hook up Plumeria

The Plumeria Hotel applied for power connection with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. since September last year but its request has not been acted on, according to Coastal Resources Management Office director Joaquin Salas. Salas said he discovered about it only recently after his office issued a notice to the hotel demanding that it shut down its power generator and immediately hook up with CUC. The citation was issued on the belief that the hotel's management had failed to comply with CRMO's previous recommendations. In his order issued about two weeks ago, Salas said the hotel's power generator has created adverse environmental impacts during the past two years.

Scholarship board for Saipan proposed

With a potential funding source in sight, Rep. Arnold I. Palacios has decided to put forward a local bill that aims to establish a scholarship assistance program eyed to supplement the education needs of students in the Third Senatorial District. With closure to the longstanding retroactive payments nearing completion, the Saipan congressman disclosed plans to use Saipan Local Law 13-8-which pumped funding for the salary adjustments-to start a scholarship fund that would benefit Saipan students.

FHB is first local bank to offer CD account openings online

In a move that could attract customers from across the nation, First Hawaiian Bank has become the first Hawaii-based bank to offer Certificates of Deposit account openings online, according to an announcement yesterday by Bob Harrison, president and CEO of First Hawaiian Bank.

The new product offering is available through FHB Direct, the bank's online account opening service. It lets consumers open a savings, checking, or CD account, which the bank calls eCDs, 24/7 without going into a branch.

The entire secure process can be done in minutes. To open an eCD account online you must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older, and reside in the U.S., Guam, or CNMI. Funding the new online account with a minimum of \$500 can be done through electronic transfer or by mailing in a check. When First Hawaiian Bank launched FHB Direct in 2008, it was the first Hawaii bank to offer online account openings for deposit products.

"With the introduction of online eCDs, we are expanding the

scope of products and services offered through FHB Direct as well as our state-of-the-art online and mobile banking services," said Harrison. "FHB Direct is a safe, fast, and easy way to open accounts online from most anywhere using your computer, smartphone, or tablet. Together with FHB Online and FHB Mobile, customers can manage their finances on-the-go safely and securely anytime, from anywhere."

FHB Direct, FHB Online, FHB Mobile, and FHB's ATM

networks are all part of First Hawaiian's commitment to provide the ultimate in 24/7 banking convenience.

First Hawaiian has a long history of offering electronic convenience to customers. It was the first bank in Hawaii to offer full service ATMs as well as Internet banking via the computer. More recently, the bank became the first financial institution in Hawaii to offer both eStatements and CheckImage, services that give customers online access to their account

statements as well as images of cleared checks. First Hawaiian was also the first local bank to provide an automated online credit application process that provides a decision on certain credit applications in seconds. Customers can apply for credit cards, personal loans and lines and business loans 24/7 through www.fhb.com.

Customers may also sign up for free FHB Online, which allows them the convenience of managing nearly all their banking accounts online anytime.

The customer can transfer and monitor loan and deposit balances, see their ATM and credit card transactions, and view and print copies of their cancelled checks and checking account statements online. Bill payment service can also be added for a small fee.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with assets of \$16.1 billion assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam, and two on Saipan. **(FHB)**

BOH volunteers to give credit lessons to students

More than 35 Bank of Hawaii volunteers will take part in the annual "Get Smart About Credit Day" on Thursday, Oct. 18. The BOH volunteers will be teaching a valuable lesson on personal finance to more than 1,100 high school and intermediate students on Saipan and in Guam, Palau,

and American Samoa.

Get Smart About Credit Day is an annual event, where bankers visit local classrooms to share the "credit facts of life" with students. Since it was started by the ABA Education Foundation in 2003, approximately 22,000 bankers have reached more than

868,000 students.

The Get Smart About Credit program provides valuable lessons on the "how-to's" of credit, including obtaining and managing credit, how to read a credit report, why a good credit record is important, budgeting, and how to prevent identity theft. For many students, this may be

their only opportunity to receive a personal finance lesson before graduating.

Bank of Hawaii has participated in the program for more than 11 years on Guam, reaching more than 5,000 students. The program is also offered in Hawaii, Saipan, Palau and American Samoa. **(BOH)**

Legion of Mary sets rummage sale



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fr. Nonoy Recaido and members of the Legions of Mary during a recent gathering on island.

On Oct. 21, 2012 after the 8am Mass, the Legion of Mary will

initiate its first Rummage Sale to help support the Santa Remedios

Church. All food and material items will be sold at very reason-

able prices. Hot lunch will be sold for \$2.50 with fried chicken, chicken adobo, and smoke dried meat with free vegetable salad and drinks. All household items, clothing toys, handbags, shoes and others are tagged at a price from 25 cents to \$2.50 only. Everyone is invited.

Meantime, in celebration of Parish Priest Fr. Nonoy Recaido's birthday on Nov. 5, 2012, the Legion of Mary will hold its second Hospitality Sunday on Oct. 28, 2012, after the 8am Mass. The group will offer free food, free rosaries, free scapulars, and other free religious items. Members will also host a book borrow and perform Apostolate to the Crowd. Most importantly, as a service to the community and in honor of Fr. Recaido's pre-celebration of his birthday, the group will offer free haircuts and free health screening of blood pressure and blood sugar tests. **(PR)**

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Virginia "Alma" Feliciano! I wish you all the best and happiness in life! We love you! Greetings coming from Ate Jane and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 22nd birthday to our Army Strong soldier, Koniko Desirae Masga Nakazato! We hope you have a great day, may God bless you with many more birthdays to come. Greetings come from Jem, Mom and Dad, Court, Mayumi and Jowel, your godson TJ Boy, Peleni, Kai, Raymond, Mariama, and the entire family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy birthday Magdalena "Maggie/Nencho" Cabrera, who celebrates her birthday today, Wednesday, Oct. 17th, 2012. Despite recent events, you must still be remembered and celebrated and know how much you are loved and appreciated by your entire family and friends. May you have a joyous and momentous day surrounded by those you love, and may you be blessed all the days of your life! We love you! Coming out from your grandchildren, your son Daniel, your entire family, and all of your dear friends, especially your 1957 crew!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MISSION CONVENTION

Grace Christian Academy is celebrating Mission Convention Week from Oct. 15 to 19, 2012. This year's theme is "So All Can Hear." Each class chose a country to pray for: K4, Kenya; K5, Mexico; 1st grade, Japan; 2nd grade, Argentina; 3rd grade, the CNMI; 4th grade, Samoa; 5th grade, Korea; 6th grade, Great Britain; 7th grade, Israel; 8th grade, India; 9th grade, France; 10th grade, China; 11th grade, United States of America; and 12th grade, the Philippines.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

REAL-LIFE HERO

Kanis Sinounou, third from left, is applauded by senators led by Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), second from left, after he was presented last week with a Senate resolution commending his heroism for helping two female Russian tourists from being victimized by a robber in Garapan in September. Sinounou, 38, has been receiving accolades from the community for helping others in danger without regard to his own safety and has shown that amid the economic and political crises in the CNMI, stories of individual courageousness still abound.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Mistakes, and meningitis

The 14 people who died of fungal meningitis after they were injected with an apparently tainted steroid surely had no idea that their medication hadn't come from a regular pharmaceutical company that meets federal standards for safety and efficacy. Rather, it had been produced by one of the nation's "compounding pharmacies," which used to be small operations producing customized versions of drugs for people whose particular medical issues made it difficult for them to take standard medications. Because of their small, specialized operations, such businesses have been largely exempted from inspection and regulation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Yet many of them have grown into sizable manufacturers that make the same drugs produced by traditional pharmaceutical companies. The injectable steroid implicated in the meningitis cases, for example, was shipped to nearly two dozen states and used to treat up to 14,000 patients with back or neck pain. This has been possible in part because of provisions of the 1997 Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act, which allowed compounding pharmacies to avoid the levels of testing and other standards required of regular pharmaceutical firms. Court decisions further tied the FDA's hands.

Since then, these companies have operated in a legal limbo. They are supposed to come under the purview of state pharmacy boards, but those boards are ill-equipped to regulate such operations. The FDA is allowed to step in under some circumstances.

In 2003, an FDA official raised his concern about various compounding firms before a Senate committee, saying that some had "creatively marketed" new products that they touted as superior to available drugs without data to support their claims. Others included experimental ingredients in their formulations that had not been approved by the FDA. And yet others weren't producing special products at all, but cheaper versions of existing drugs that should be made by companies with more sophisticated equipment and procedures. In some of those cases, he said, the risk of producing a substandard product was outweighing the benefit of such specialized pharmacies.

That risk apparently turned into tragic reality for the victims of the meningitis outbreak. In addition to the deaths, about 170 people have been sickened, and authorities are searching for more patients. New England Compounding Center, located in a suburb of Boston, has recalled all of its products, not just those involved in the FDA investigation of its operations. Now Congress must plug this growing hole in regulatory oversight by giving the FDA clear and unequivocal authority over compounding pharmacies.

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The '13 days in October,' 50 years later

By JON WIENER
Los Angeles Times

Jon Wiener is a professor of history at UC Irvine and the author, most recently, of *How We Forgot the Cold War: A Historical Journey Across America*. He wrote this for the *Los Angeles Times*.

In 2007, when President George W. Bush's White House representative Dana Perino was asked a question about one of the biggest foreign policy crises in American history, she drew a blank. "I was panicked a bit because I really don't know about ... the Cuban missile crisis," she later told NPR. "It had to do with Cuba and missiles, I'm pretty sure."

Perino was 35 in 2007, and thus had been born about a decade after the famous "13 days in October" 1962 when President John F. Kennedy confronted Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev over Moscow's installation of missiles in Cuba. The history books describe it as the closest the world has come to nuclear war.

Perino's ignorance revealed a striking shift in conservative perception. At the time of the Cuban missile crisis, Republicans expected that it would be remembered for generations as a moment when a Democratic president squandered a historic opportunity. Barry Goldwater, Ronald Reagan and William F. Buckley all suggested at the time that Kennedy's handling of the crisis represented a capitulation to the Soviets; that the president had bowed to Soviet threats when he promised not to invade Cuba. They believed Kennedy's actions had guaranteed that a communist outpost would remain, 90 miles from our shores, and that the president should have taken the opportunity to liberate the Cubans from their communist overlords.

These days, most conservatives wouldn't make such arguments. Even the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, Calif., gave no hint of the views Reagan once held on the matter in a Cold War exhibit it had up until a few months ago. There was a single panel of text about those 13 days in October, and it informed visitors: "Kennedy took decisive action. His firm stand, based on excellent intelligence and analyses, resolved the Cuban missile crisis."

But at the time, it wasn't just Reagan, Goldwater and Buckley who favored U.S. intervention; inside the circle of Kennedy's advisers, advocates of an attack on Cuba were led by Gen. Curtis LeMay, chief of the Air Force, who proposed bombing 1,000 sites in Cuba, to be followed seven days later by a ground invasion by U.S. troops. (LeMay had risen in power in World War II for devising and carrying out the strategy of fire-bombing Japanese cities, which killed more civilians than the atomic bombs.)

For the last 30 years, historians have largely ignored the conservative critiques of the time. Kennedy's actions have been challenged instead from the left, by those who question whether the missile crisis was necessary. The Kennedy advocates have held that the successful resolution of the crisis demonstrated his mastery of world politics, showing how he struck the perfect balance between steely determination and strategic flexibility. As a result, they say, he prevented nuclear war while removing the threat posed by the missiles in Cuba.

His critics have argued for the last three decades that Kennedy's

taking the nation to the brink of nuclear war was an irresponsible and unnecessary risk, and that the crisis should have been resolved by less dangerous methods involving normal diplomacy and negotiation. The Soviet missiles in Cuba, they note, did not represent an increased threat to the U.S.—"a missile is a missile," Kennedy himself said, and it didn't matter whether it was coming from Siberia or Cuba. The missiles in Cuba did nothing to change the strategic balance of power—that's what Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara told Kennedy at the beginning of the crisis: "I don't think there is a military problem." And the U.S. already had missiles based in Turkey, closer to the Soviet Union than the missiles in Cuba were to the U.S., so we had set the precedent for moving missiles up to our enemy's border.

The Cuban missile crisis exhibit at the JFK museum in Boston, of course, celebrates Kennedy's steely resolve and tactical flexibility, and pretty much ignores his critics on the left and right. But by focusing on the 13 days in October, it fails to explain the big picture, the larger context. It avoids asking a big question, an obvious question: Why did Khrushchev move missiles to Cuba in the first place?

The answer is not hard to find: The U.S. had sponsored an invasion of Cuba by CIA-trained Cuban exiles at the Bay of Pigs just two years earlier, attempting to overthrow Fidel Castro by force. The threat that the U.S. might invade again was what motivated Khrushchev, and especially Castro; they wanted a bargaining chip to trade for a U.S. agreement not to invade. And they got that agreement from Kennedy.

That raises the question of winners and losers. The conventional wisdom these days is that Kennedy was the big winner, Castro the big loser. Kennedy's prestige soared while Castro was humiliated and shown to be irrelevant, even to his Soviet overlords. But the conventional wisdom doesn't survive scrutiny. The next year, Kennedy was assassinated by a pro-Castro activist, and soon after that, Khrushchev was deposed by hard-liners opposed to his loss of face. Meanwhile, 50 years later, Castro is still there.

The conservatives, who argued at the time that Kennedy's no-attack pledge guaranteed the survival of Castro's regime, turned out to be right—about that, at least.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

NMI juggles funds

The CNMI is going to ask the court to reconsider its decision on the \$300 million owed the Fund given that the total figure has gone on a downward spiral, according to Finance Secretary Larissa Larson at a recent public hearing. She said that most of those on the defined benefit plan have moved to withdraw their contributions.

Some may matriculate to the defined contribution plan while paying for participation with U.S. Social Security. So it means less in terms of obligations for employer's contribution. While the administration catches up with its late obligations, it now shifts its focus to ascertaining that retirees are paid their pension. It must fork out some \$60 million-\$65 million annually for this purpose.

The Fund remains problematic given its heavy cost and unless it is revamped to include current and future retirees partaking in their welfare, it would continue running short of money to meet obligations. Take your pick: sink with it or do something to ascertain its sustainability.

Larson also said money for the operations of CHC are being met, as funds become available. She pointed out the significant drop in revenues. Personally, it's fitting that defraying the cost of CHC be returned to its original status (under the governor's office) and funded accordingly via regular annual appropriations.

The Finance secretary has one tough job, exacerbated by the economy going deep south, but I take comfort in the fact that she's a strong finance and accounting professional and could navigate the mind-numbing mess with clear prism and calm.

It's obvious the CNMI isn't equipped with the population base to defray the cost of the only hospital here. The same can be said about spreading the cost of utilities where it is limited to a very small population. Some form of creative subsidy (of course, new sources of revenue permitting) may be in order to ease both expenses weighing heavily on all consumers as they deal with zero or stagnant income.

Nonetheless, it remains a matter of obligation to reduce debts

and deficit spending. But we must, with resolve, grow the economy ASAP. Without it, nothing happens to pare down debts now in the books and piling too.

◆◆◆◆

Nursing optimism

The NMI faces viciously powerful headwinds comprised of piles of debts, deficit spending, and the simultaneous loss of revenues. It brings into focus two issues. They are: 1.) How do we attain sustainable economic growth while grappling with the impact of negative federal and local policies? 2.) How do we resolve the conflict between the need to reduce government debt and spending while ensuring the wellbeing of our people?

It's not an easy task navigating and resolving these issues with a definite sense of certainty. But it can be done and done right if we ignore the new toy on gridlock. There's nobody around to help us muddle through except ourselves. Let's begin by working on the following:

1. A commission must be appointed to review policies on fees, taxes, and punitive laws that have worked against private industries. In fact, we must join hands with the only productive sector that we have punished and forced to gradually shut down as a result of half-baked policies. We can only move forward by repealing punitive policies that have contributed to fatal exodus of midsize and large businesses from the NMI in recent past.

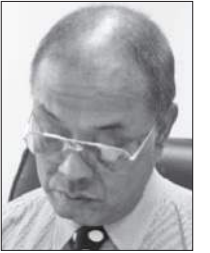
2. In the event we haven't caught up, "tax policy has a major influence on how fast an economy grows, how much investment a government attracts and cultivates, and the composition of its industrial base," according to a study by the Goldwater Institute, a highly respected think tank. "Much of the competition between states and nations for the investment that creates long-term employment growth and prosperity is played on the field of tax policy."

3. Is the arcane tax policy still a useful tool or has it done nothing but sink revenue generation because of the rates we've imposed on personal income and corporate taxes? Why can't we try a broad based sales tax system where food items are absolved from taxes? Would

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.



not this approach give consumers on Tinian and Rota some breathing room on the horrendous cost of basic commodities today? Indeed, it can be done by retaining experts to assist the NMI overcome a system of taxation that favors only those cherry picked by politicians.

4. As the NMI proceeds on these issues, a group needs to promote the islands in South Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, among other wealthy countries, on what we're doing to making these isles business-friendly once more.

In doing so, we must be mindful that it is sound working relationship that cements lasting partnership in any appreciable effort to revive the local economy. For instance, is it right to ignore our primordial relationship with pioneering investors from Japan by cherry picking others from South Korea and China? Is this now a matter of policy? Isn't Japan far more adept on investment issues?

Need for collaboration

Policymakers often try to spur job creation through incentive programs or tweaks to the current tax code. They usually try to anticipate potential growth industries and favor them with special tax advantages, i.e., the qualifying certificate.

Other times, politically favored industries are the beneficiaries of a targeted tax break. In either case, to pay for the special treatment, taxes are kept high on those who do not receive the benefit.

In any case, there is substantial empirical evidence that cherry picking of industries is not a driver of economic growth, according to the Goldwater Institute. Repeal the QC forthwith!

What the undecided voters want

What do undecided voters want from presidential candidates, anyway?

Not much. Just clearer answers, a sense of firm leadership—and a credible promise that the next four years will bring more bipartisan cooperation than the last four.

"I'll vote for the person that gives me the most clarity," Calvin Smith, 70, a retired high school teacher in Columbus, Ohio, said last week. "I've heard enough visions. I want concrete, step-by-step instructions."

In a polarized election year, the dwindling ranks of undecided voters have become objects of wonderment and even ridicule. Polls report that only about 6 percent of the nation's likely voters are still on the fence; another 12 percent or so have tentatively settled on a candidate but say they still might change their minds.

Some, like Smith, have been paying close attention all year, have watched the debates and know the candidates' positions well. Smith says he's a moderate—"a fiscal conservative and a social liberal"—who's dissatisfied with both presidential candidates. He wishes President Obama hadn't presided over so much growth in the federal deficit, but he wishes Mitt Romney weren't so conservative on social issues such as abortion and contraception.

"It's a quandary," he said cheerfully.

But he does plan to vote, and he thinks he knows how he'll make up his mind. "In the end, it's going to be who wins the next two debates," he said.

Smith was one of 12 Ohio voters who spent an evening last week talking about the election in a focus group sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center. A focus group isn't a poll; it's a discussion led by a public opinion scholar—in this case, Peter D. Hart, a leading Democratic pollster. The goal is to go beyond the two-dimensional questions that polls ask and get a sense of how voters weigh all the factors—emotional as well as analytical—in their choice.

The session was held in Columbus because it's a swing city in an important swing state. The group included six men and six women, six who voted for Obama in 2008 and six who voted for his Republican opponent, Sen. John McCain. They weren't all "pure undecideds"—five said they leaned tentatively toward Obama, four toward Romney. Only three were completely on the fence.

But they shared some basic views: The country is in trouble, the economy isn't recovering fast enough, and neither presidential candidate has shown that he has the ability to turn things around.

For most of these voters, Obama has been a disappointment, but Romney hasn't convinced them that he understands middle-class concerns.

"Obama, I think, hasn't done what he said he was going to do," said Jeff Malesky, 54, a computer systems manager. "And Romney, we don't know what he's going to do."

Romney had impressed many of them with his performance in the first presidential debate Oct. 3 (the discussion took place before Thursday's vice presidential debate).

"(Romney) came out like a man who wanted the job with passion," said Terry Grenier, 64, an advertising copywriter who had been leaning toward Obama. "It made me feel a whole lot differently about him. ... I thought, 'Damn! I'm going to be listening with a different ear than I did before.'"

If the choice were based on economics alone, Romney might have taken the night. About half of the participants said they thought Romney was more capable of fixing the economy, and about half said the two candidates were equally able—but no one argued that Obama had the advantage on the issue.

Why didn't that decide their votes? "The presidency is more than just the economy," replied Jessica Hall, 35, a homemaker.

A jumble of other issues were on their minds as well. Obama's health-care plan guarantees insurance to people with pre-existing conditions; if Romney repealed Obamacare, would the guar-

antee go away? Obama's had four years of on-the-job training; maybe four years wasn't enough time to give any president a chance to succeed, especially in an economic crisis.

And then there was the matter of Romney's wealth and his seemingly distant personality, factors that came up again and again during the two-hour conversation. "I don't think he's relatable at all," Hall said. When Hart asked the participants to say what family member the candidates reminded them of, Obama drew a variety of choices: father, uncle, brother-in-law. Romney, they said, seemed more like a stepfather.

Which one seems like the stronger leader? The answer seemed to be: neither. Obama's backbone, Grenier said, seemed made of "willow." Romney's backbone? "Unknown," Smith replied.

Hart, who has presided over thousands of such sessions with voters since 1971, said the session helped clarify the presidential race—at least in Ohio, where polls suggest Obama is clinging to a narrow lead.

"The economy is the central issue, but it isn't transformative for Romney," Hart said. "They're skeptical that either candidate can fix it."

With only a little more than three weeks remaining in the campaign, the race remains too close to call. Many of those voters will be watching the two remaining debates between Obama and Romney. The conventional wisdom still holds that televised debates have only a marginal effect on a presidential election.

But this year, with the electorate so closely divided, even a marginal effect could be decisive.

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The First Amendment

I recently watched the *Roots* miniseries, which tells a powerful story of oppression. I can't help but see so many similarities between the plight of the slaves and the CNMI government worker. So many CNMI citizens here are tired of being oppressed by a corrupt government, but they fear retribution if they speak what they really feel. They know they risk losing their jobs, as they've seen

it happen to others. They are told that the statement in their job description "and other duties as assigned" means that their employer can tell them how to stand on a political issue. It isn't true. Your mind and heart are your own.

In *Roots*, the slaves remained in oppression through sheer intimidation. Although they had the numbers to overthrow their oppressors, they lacked the ability to communicate with others throughout the South to organize. Many, such as Fanta, and Ole Fiddler, were so beaten down by oppression the fire for freedom was gone. I hope that is not the case in the CNMI.

As U.S. citizens, the First Amendment of the Constitution guar-

antees a right and, I believe, an obligation to speak up against oppression and bad government. Alone, one man is weak, but when we band together, good can overpower evil. Good government is only a result of good citizens demanding it. In the past few weeks, we've heard plenty of the Fifth Amendment (the protection against self-incrimination) from those who should be protecting the people from criminals. Let's start talking about that First Amendment some more. Power to the people. We shall overcome.






Dianne Esplin

As Matuis, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 75
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 81

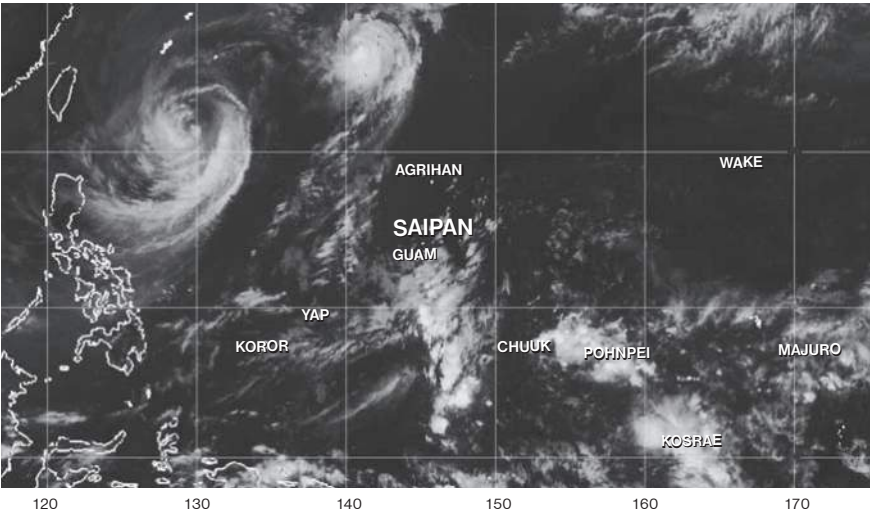
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 58
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 41
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 73
London	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 53
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 63
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 45
Miami	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 72
New York	Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 42
Osaka	Rain	▲ 76 ▼ 63
Paris	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 53
Pusan	Windy	▲ 70 ▼ 51
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 57
Salem	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 41
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 60
Seoul	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 43
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 71 ▼ 64
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 48

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:06 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
9:10 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Prapiroon (22W) is centered 330 miles south-southeast of Okinawa at 22N130E. Prapiroon is moving southwestward at 7 mph with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 200 miles of the center. For more information on Typhoon Prapiroon, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and National Weather Service advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Tropical Storm Maria (23W) is centered north of Iwo To island near 26N141E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 25N and 23N from 139E to 145E. Isolated thunderstorms are found west of the Marianas between 20N and 13N from 135E to 143E. For more information on Tropical Storm Maria, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A surface trough extends southeastward from 8N145E through a weak circulation centered southwest of Pohnpei near 4N155E then turns northeastward to 6N161E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located south of the Marianas within 120 miles of a line from 13N146E to 1N148E. Similar weather is found over Pohnpei between 9N and 5N from 152E to 161E and south of Kosrae between 4N and the equator from 160E to 166E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms mainly east of Majuro between 13N and 6N from 175E to the date line.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:54 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	5:54 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	5:53 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:36 AM	7:23 PM
Thursday	8:40 AM	8:21 PM
Friday	9:43 AM	9:22 PM
Saturday	10:43 AM	10:23 PM
Sunday	11:39 AM	11:23 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 23, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

2 Americans win Nobel econ prize for match-making

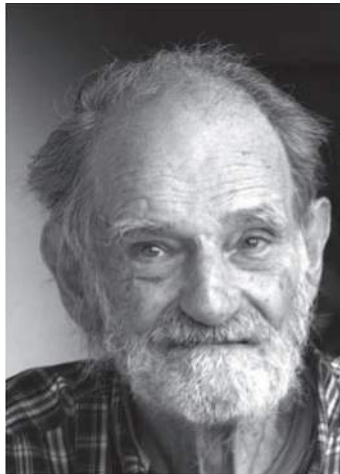
STOCKHOLM (AP)—Two American scholars won the Nobel economics prize Monday for work on match-making—how to pair doctors with hospitals, students with schools, kidneys with transplant recipients and even men with women in marriage.

Lloyd Shapley of UCLA and Alvin Roth, a Harvard University professor currently visiting at Stanford University, found ways to make markets work when traditional economic tools fail.

Shapley, 89, came up with the formulas to match supply and demand in markets where prices don't do the job; the 60-year-old Roth put Shapley's math to work in the real world.

Unlike some recent Nobel prizes—such as the Peace Prize that went to the embattled European Union last week—this year's economics award did not seem to send a political message.

"It's all about down-to-earth, highly useful stuff," said Robert Aumann, a professor at Jerusalem's Hebrew University who won the 2005 economics Nobel. "We're talking about the nitty-gritty of health



In this photo combination, UCLA professor emeritus Lloyd Shapley, left, is seen at his home Monday, Oct. 15, 2012, and Harvard professor Alvin E. Roth is seen in a 2008 photo provided by Harvard University.

care and education—which medical students are assigned to which hospitals. We're talking about how to arrange donors of kidneys."

Shapley made early theoretical inroads into the subject, using game theory to analyze different matching methods in the 1950s and '60s.

In a groundbreaking 1962 paper, Shapley and the late David Gale looked at how to match 10 men and 10 women in perfectly stable marriages. They created a model in which

no two people liked anyone else better than each other.

While that may have had little impact on marriages and divorces, the elegant algorithm they developed has been used to better understand many different markets.

Building on Shapley's work, Roth applied it decades later to the market for allocating doctors, creating an algorithm that led to the redesign of the National Resident Matching Program that pairs fourth-year medical students with hospitals.

Confident consumers give US retail sales a lift

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans spent more money at retailers in September—a buying surge that reflected growing consumer confidence and the launch of the latest iPhone.

Retail sales jumped 1.1 percent last month, producing the best two months of sales in two years, according to figures released Monday by the Commerce Department.

"The consumer is back," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors. "They are not spending money like it is going out of style, but they are spending at a more normal pace that is consistent with a

moderately growing economy."

The spike in spending could boost sluggish growth and help revitalize President Barack Obama's campaign after a strong debate performance by challenger Mitt Romney.

The increase comes only 10 days after a report that unemployment fell to its lowest level since Obama took office. And it follows a survey last week by the University of Michigan that showed consumer confidence rose in early October to a five-year high.

Stocks climbed after the retail report. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 95 points

to close up at 13,424. Broader indexes also rose.

Businesses appeared to be banking on a resurgent consumer.

A second Commerce Department report Monday showed companies increased their stockpiles in August by 0.6 percent after a slightly larger gain in July. Companies typically step up restocking when they anticipate sales will rise in coming months.

The retail sales report is the government's first monthly look at consumer spending. Consumer spending is critical because it drives nearly 70 percent of economic activity.

Softbank to buy 70 percent of Sprint for \$20.1B

NEW YORK (AP)—Sprint dug a hole for itself when it bought Nextel in 2005 in one of the worst deals in telecom history. Now, a deep-pocketed friend from overseas could help the company climb out of its hole and reinvigorate its fight against AT&T and Verizon Wireless.

Japan's Softbank Corp. has agreed to buy a controlling stake in Sprint Nextel Corp. for \$20.1 billion, money that will be divided by the company and its shareholders.

Announced Monday in Tokyo, the deal positions Sprint as a stronger competitor to its two biggest rivals, AT&T and Verizon.

The agreement, however,

doesn't solve all of Sprint's underlying problems. Sprint, which is based in Overland Park, Kan., has been limping along since it purchased Nextel. The merger quickly turned sour, saddling Sprint with the cost of running two incompatible networks while customers fled.

Sprint has more than 56 million subscribers, compared to AT&T's 105.2 million and Verizon Wireless' 94.2 million. No. 4 U.S. carrier T-Mobile has over 33 million U.S. customers.

Softbank Corp., a holding company with investments in Internet and telecom businesses, made its own venture into the wireless world in 2005, with the

acquisition of Vodafone Japan. It turned that business around, giving President Masayoshi Son the confidence that he can make Sprint a profitable company again after five straight years of losses.

Sprint CEO Dan Hesse has laid the groundwork for a turnaround but his efforts haven't had an immediate impact on profitability. In particular, the company's reputation for customer service has improved during his tenure, as he's focused on enhancing the store and call center experience. The company scored the highest of the Big 4 wireless carriers in the American Customer Satisfaction Index this spring.

Nation

Clinton says consulate security her responsibility

LIMA, Peru (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is taking responsibility for security at the U.S. consulate in Libya where an assault by extremists on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. Pushing back against Republican criticism of the Obama administration for its handling of the situation, Clinton said Monday in Lima, Peru, that security at all of America's diplomatic missions abroad is her job, not that of the White House. She made the comments in several television interviews.

"I take responsibility," she told CNN. "I'm in charge of the State Department's 60,000-plus people all over the world (at) 275 posts. The president and the vice president wouldn't be knowledgeable about specific decisions that are made by security professionals. They're the ones who weigh all of the threats and the risks and the needs and make a considered decision."

With only weeks before the presidential election, outrage over the attack at the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi crystallized last week around Vice President Joe Biden for claiming in the debate with Republican vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan that "we weren't told" about requests for extra security at the consulate, where assailants killed the Ambassador Chris Stevens, foreign service officer Sean Smith, and security officers Glen A. Doherty and Tyrone S. Woods.

Congressional hearings last week revealed that the State Department was aware of, and rejected, several requests for increased security in Benghazi. Spokesmen for both the State Department and the White House took pains Friday to make clear that Biden's reference to "we" referred to the White House, where such requests would not go in the early stages.

"In the wake of an attack like this, in the fog of war, there's always going to be confusion,"

Clinton told CNN. "And I think it is absolutely fair to say that everyone had the same intelligence. Everyone who spoke tried to give the information that they had. As time has gone on, that information has changed. We've gotten more detail, but that's not surprising. That always happens."

She said: "What I want to avoid is some kind of political gotcha or blame game."

She told Fox News that "the decisions about security are made by security professionals. But we're going to review everything to be sure we're doing what needs to be done in an increasingly risky environment."

Clinton's statements Monday seemed to support Biden's assertion in the debate.

There are three separate investigations into the attack going on now: an FBI probe into the deaths of the four Americans, an independent inquiry by a panel appointed by Clinton and the congressional hearings.

Police release 21 names in Maine Zumba sex case

KENNEBUNK, Maine (AP)—Police on Monday released the first round of names of more than 100 men accused of paying for sex with a Zumba instructor who's charged with turning her dance studio into a brothel in this seaside community.

The release of 21 names followed 11th-hour legal wrangling, and some residents watched the news flash on their local evening TV news.

Kim Ackley, a local real estate agent, said that disclosure of the names will cause temporary pain for families but it's only fair because others who are accused of embarrassing crimes don't get breaks.

"What's fair for one has to be fair for the other," said Ackley,

who believes she knows several people on the list. "The door can't swing just one way."

Residents had been anxiously awaiting the release of names since 29-year-old Alexis Wright was charged this month with engaging in prostitution in her dance studio and in an office she rented across the street. Police said she kept meticulous records suggesting the sex acts generated \$150,000 over 18 months.

Wright, from nearby Wells, has pleaded not guilty to 106 counts of prostitution, invasion of privacy and other charges. Her business partner, 57-year-old insurance agent and private investigator Mark Strong Sr., from Thomaston, has pleaded not guilty to 59

misdemeanor charges.

Police said more than 150 people are suspected of being clients and many of them were videotaped without their knowledge.

In town, residents heard the list could include lawyers, law enforcement officers and well-known people, heightening their curiosity.

The prostitution charges and ensuing publicity, which reached across the country and beyond, came as a shock in the small town of about 10,000 residents, which is well-known for its ocean beaches, old sea captains' mansions and the neighboring town of Kennebunkport, home to the Bush family's Walker's Point summer compound.

Obama embraces economic record in new commercial

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (AP)—With the economy showing some signs of improvement three weeks before Election Day, President Barack Obama on Monday laid down a full embrace of the economic record many Republicans say is his biggest weakness.

The president's first act in this critical campaign week was to announce a new battleground state advertisement featuring voters discussing the ways their economic conditions have improved during his term. The ad was hitting the airwaves as Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney huddled in intense preparation for their second debate

as polls show a closely fought campaign.

"This race is tied," Obama said in an appeal to supporters asking them to donate at least \$5 to his re-election effort. He promised to be "fighting" for the election on the debate stage Tuesday night—something many of his supporters thought he did too little of in his first face-off with Romney.

Early voting is under way in dozens of states, giving the candidates little chance to recover from any slip-ups that come in these final days. Obama has been trying to get his supporters to lock in their choice now, and his campaign announced Monday that he and his wife, Michelle, would become the

first president and first lady to cast their ballots early.

Obama planned to vote early during a visit to his home state of Illinois next week, while Michelle Obama told a rally in Delaware, Ohio, that she dropped her absentee ballot in the mail Monday. "For me, it was Election Day," she said.

Even as polls show the race tightening nationally and in battleground states, Obama's campaign aides say they are encouraged by public and private surveys showing voters growing more confident about the direction of the economy. Those trends are behind the new 30-second spot the campaign is running in Colorado, Iowa, Nevada and Virginia.

Asia

Muslim rebels ink PH pact as step to peace



Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, right, receives a gong from Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Chairman Al Haj Murad, center, and MILF Peace Panel chief Mohagher Iqbal, left, before the historic signing of the framework agreement between the Philippine government and the MILF at the Malacanang Presidential Palace in Manila, Philippines, on Monday Oct. 15, 2012.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels and the Philippine government overcame decades of bitter hostility and took their first tentative step toward ending one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies with the signing of a preliminary peace pact that provides both hope and challenges.

The framework agreement creates a roadmap for a final peace settlement. It grants minority Muslims in the southern Philippines broad autonomy in exchange for ending more than 40 years of violence that has killed tens of thousands of people and crippled development.

It was signed Monday in Manila's Malacanang presidential palace by government negotiator Marvic Leonen and his counterpart from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Mohagher Iqbal. Also witnessing the historic moment were President Benigno Aquino III, rebel chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim—who set foot in the palace for the first time—and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, whose country helped broker the deal.

About 200 guerrillas and

followers, all in dark business suits, joined the crowd of diplomats, officials, and police and army generals in a chandelier-lit hall to witness the signing. In their southern Philippine strongholds, thousands of guerrillas waved flags and gathered to celebrate.

"The framework agreement before us will bring to an end the violence which claimed so many lives, and cut short so many futures," Najib said. He said the deal would protect the rights of minority Muslims while preserving the Philippines' territorial integrity.

"After four decades, peace is within reach," he said, adding that he hopes large numbers of Filipinos displaced by decades of strife, including many who fled to Malaysia, will be able to return to normal life.

But he cautioned that the agreement "does not solve all the problems, rather it sets the parameters in which peace can be found."

The 13-page document outlines general agreements on major issues, including the extent of power, revenues and territory granted for a new

Muslim autonomous region to be called Bangsamoro in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation. The large number of army troops will gradually be replaced by a regional police, which could enlist qualified guerrillas, officials and the rebels said.

It calls for the establishment of a 15-member Transition Commission to draft a law creating the new Muslim-administered region. The 11,000-strong rebel army will be deactivated gradually "beyond use," the agreement says, without specifying a timetable.

The United States, which has deployed hundreds of counterterrorism troops in the southern Philippines since 2002, welcomed the signing, saying it "marks another step toward ending insurrection and restoring good governance."

"The United States will continue to work with the international community, regional stakeholders and the people of the Philippines to promote transparency, governance, economic growth and development to achieve a better future," said a White House statement.

government would respond by intensifying its fight against the Taliban and their allies. Malala was targeted by the Taliban for promoting girls' education and criticizing the militant group's behavior when they took over the scenic Swat Valley where she lived. Two of her classmates were also wounded in the attack and are receiving treatment in Pakistan.

Japan navy showcases warships amid spat with China

ABOARD THE JS YUDACHI (AP)—Japan's navy marked its 60th anniversary with a major exercise intended to show off

its maritime strength. The display comes amid a tense territorial dispute with China. About 40 ships—including state-of-the-art destroyers, hovercraft able to launch assaults on rough coastlines and new conventionally powered submarines—took part in Fleet Review 2012, the maritime equivalent of a military parade. About 30 naval aircraft, mostly helicopters, also participated Sunday. Japan's navy was joined by warships from the United States, Singapore and Australia. Representatives from more than 20 countries, including China, also attended the event staged in waters south of Tokyo.

World

Gitmo detainees behave this time at 9/11 hearing

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—There were no rants this time, no ignoring the judge or getting out of their seats to pray—just one scornful remark from the professed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks as a weeklong pretrial hearing began for five Guantanamo Bay detainees.

It was a sharply different atmosphere as Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and his four co-defendants returned to court at the U.S. base in Cuba for the first time since their arraignment in May, when their concerted effort to disrupt the proceedings turned what was supposed to be a brief hearing into an unruly, 13-hour spectacle.

This time, the defendants sat quietly, cooperated with their attorneys and responded to the judge when asked. And they were awarded a small victory: The judge granted a defense request to allow the five men to skip the rest of this week's hearing if they choose, rather than risk being forced out of their cells and into the court by military guards.

Asked if he understood the implications of not attending court while hearings go on

without him, Mohammed made his only statement of the day: "Yes, but I don't think there is any justice in this court."

The issue was only one of a handful to be resolved Monday in a weeklong hearing on about two dozen motions before the formal trial, which is at least a year away. Most of the day was taken up by the debate over whether defendants must attend all proceedings under the rules of the special tribunals for wartime offenses known as military commissions.

Lawyers for two of the defendants said the threat to forcibly remove them from their cells and bring them to court is traumatic for men who were subjected to harsh interrogations that they say amounted to torture while in CIA custody, before going to Guantanamo in September 2006.

"Our clients may believe that ... I don't want to be subjected to this procedure that transports me here, brings up memories, brings up emotions of things that happened to me," said Jim Harrington, who represents Ramzi Binalshibh, accused of helping to provide support to the hijackers who

crashed planes into the World Trade Center, Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001.

Harrington's statement elicited groans from a small group of family members of Sept. 11 victims who were chosen by lottery to come to Guantanamo to view the proceedings. A few other families watched the proceedings on closed-circuit TV from U.S. military bases.

Prosecutors wanted the men to be required to attend court sessions. The judge, Army Col. James Pohl finally ruled that Mohammed and his codefendants would not be forced to attend the hearings. He said he may require them to attend future pretrial sessions and said they would have to be present for their trial.

His questioning of the defendants brought a rare light moment to what is considered of the most significant terrorism prosecutions in U.S. history.

The judge told each man that the trial would go on without them if they were to somehow escape from U.S. custody, drawing a smile of disbelief from Binalshibh. "I'm escaping from custody?" he said in English.

Historic mosque burned in ancient Syrian city

BEIRUT (AP)—A landmark mosque in Aleppo was burned, scarred by bullets and trashed—the latest casualty of Syria's civil war—and President Bashar Assad on Monday ordered immediate repairs to try to stem Muslim outrage at the desecration of the 12th century site.

The Umayyad Mosque suffered extensive damage, as has the nearby medieval covered market, or souk, which was gutted by a fire that was sparked by fighting two weeks ago. The market and the mosque are centerpieces of Aleppo's walled Old City, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Government troops had been holed up in the mosque for months before rebels launched

a push this week to drive them out. Activists and Syrian government officials blamed each other for the weekend fire at the mosque.

Rebel supporters also alleged that regime forces defaced the shrine with offensive graffiti and drank alcohol inside, charges bound to further raise religious tensions in Syria. Many of the rebels are Sunni Muslims, while the regime is dominated by Alawites, or followers of an offshoot of Shiite Islam.

"It's all blackened now," activist Mohammad al-Hassan said of the site, also known as the Great Mosque. One of Syria's oldest and largest shrines, it was built around a vast courtyard and enclosed

in a compound adjacent to the ancient citadel.

Al-Hassan said the army had been using the mosque as a base because of its strategic location in the Old City and he blamed Assad for the destruction.

"He burns down the country and its heritage, and then he says he will rebuild it. Why do you destroy it to begin with?" al-Hassan said in a telephone interview from Aleppo.

Fighting has destroyed large parts of Aleppo, Syria's largest city with 3 million residents and its former business capital. Activists say more than 33,000 people have died in the conflict, which began in March 2011 and has turned into a civil war.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani girl shot by Taliban now in UK for care

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP)—A teenage Pakistani activist shot in the head by the Taliban arrived in Britain on Monday to receive specialized medical care and protection from follow-up attacks threatened by the militants. Officials said she is stable and has a chance at "a good recovery." The attack on 14-year-old Malala Yousufzai as she was returning home from school in Pakistan's northwest a week ago has horrified people across the South Asian country and abroad. It has also sparked hope that the Pakistani

WORLD BRIEFS

15 explosions, gunfire heard in north Nigeria city

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—At least 15 separate explosions punctuated by gunfire echoed Monday across a northeast Nigeria city long under siege by the radical Islamist sect known as Boko Haram, witnesses said. Attacks in Maiduguri, the sect's spiritual home, have grown increasingly commonplace, but the apparent sustained strikes, which began Monday afternoon and continued into the evening, saw soldiers lock down nearly every street in the city center. It remained unclear what

was happening Monday night, as police and military officials did not answer repeated calls for comment as sirens wailed across the city. Witnesses at the scene of one of the blasts said a primary school was ablaze.

Austrians proud of skydiver Fearless Felix

VIENNA (AP)—In tiny Austria, where souvenir shops do brisk business in T-shirts bearing the crossed-out image of a kangaroo, some hope skydiver Felix Baumgartner's record-breaking jump will mean that—for a while at least—people will stop confusing their country

with Australia. The daredevil Austrian not only became the first man to shatter the sound barrier without traveling in a jet or spacecraft, he also made the highest jump ever—a tumbling, death-defying plunge from a gossamer balloon floating in the stratosphere—before landing safely Sunday in the New Mexico desert. But the pride felt here in the man known as "Fearless Felix" goes beyond reminding the world that Austria is not Australia. It also resonates on a deeper level in a country whose positive achievements have often been overshadowed by its association with Adolf Hitler.

Focus

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House has put special operations strike forces on standby and moved drones into the skies above Africa, ready to strike militant targets from Libya to Mali—if investigators can find the al-Qaida-linked group responsible for the death of the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans in Libya.

But officials say the administration, with weeks until the presidential election, is weighing whether the short-term payoff of exacting retribution on al-Qaida is worth the risk that such strikes could elevate the group's profile in the region, alienate governments the U.S. needs to fight al-Qaida in the future and do little to slow the growing terror threat in North Africa.

Details on the administration's position and on its search for a possible target were provided by three current and one former administration official, as well as an analyst who was approached by the White House for help. All four spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the high-level debates publicly.

In another effort to bolster Libyan security, the Pentagon and State Department have been developing a plan to train and equip a special operations force in Libya, according to a senior defense official.

The efforts show the tension of the White House's need to demonstrate it is responding forcefully to al-Qaida, balanced against its long-term plans to develop relationships and trust with local governments and build a permanent U.S. counterterrorist network in the region.

Vice President Joe Biden pledged in his debate last week with Republican vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan to find those responsible for the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three others.

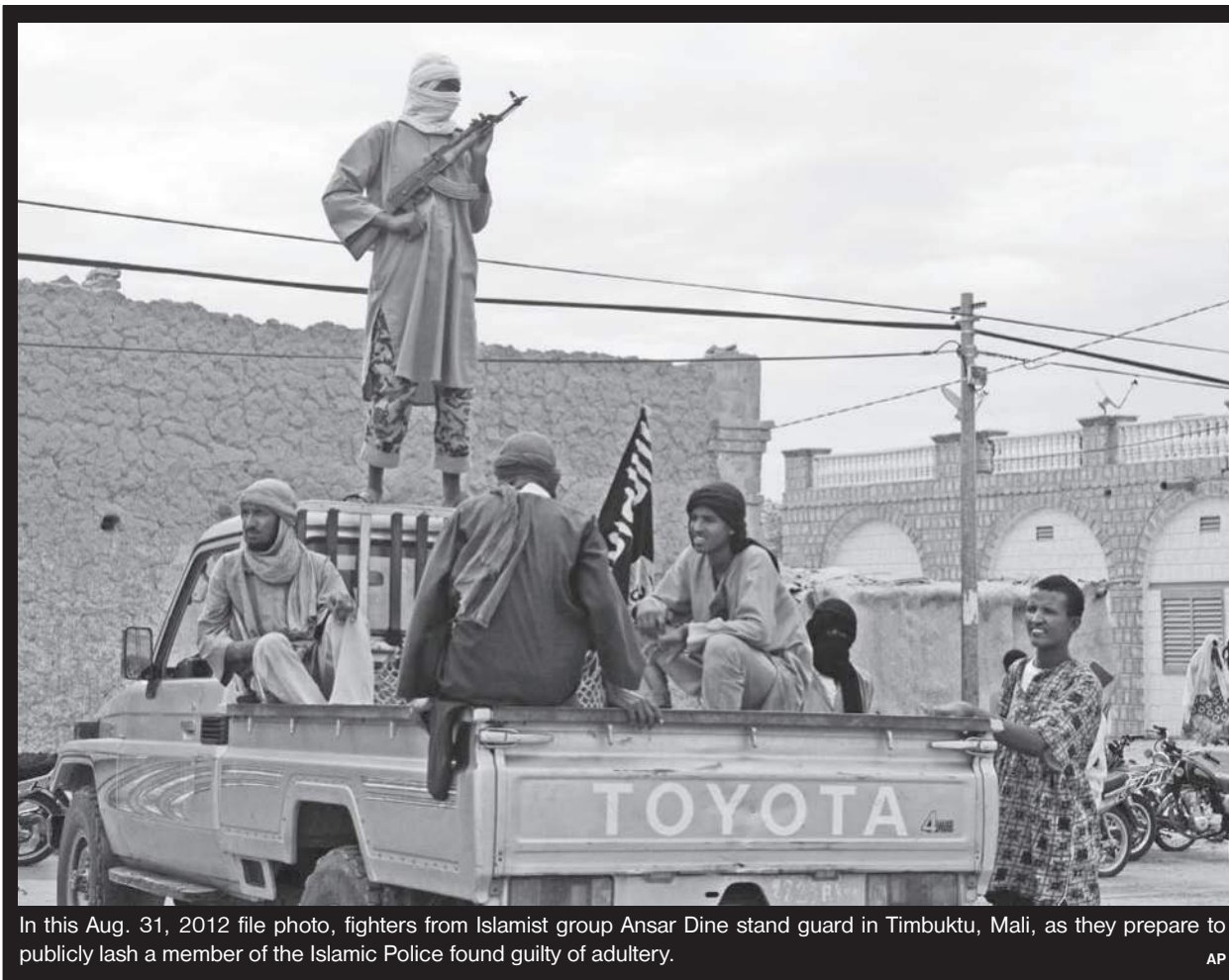
"We will find and bring to justice the men who did this," Biden said in response to a question about whether intelligence failures led to lax security around Stevens and the consulate. Referring back to the raid that killed Osama bin Laden last year, Biden said American counterterror policy should be, "if you do harm to America, we will track you to the gates of hell if need be."

The White House declined to comment on the debate over how best to respond to the Benghazi attack.

It has become an issue in the U.S. election season, with Republicans accusing the Obama administration of being slow to label the assault an act of terrorism early on, and slow to strike back at those responsible. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday night in Lima, Peru, that the security of State Department operations was her responsibility.

"They are aiming for a small pop, a flash in the pan, so as to be able to say, 'Hey, we're doing something about it,'" said retired Air Force Lt. Col. Rudy Attalah, the former Africa counterterrorism director for the Defense Department under President George W. Bush.

Attalah noted that in 1998, after the embassy bombing in Nairobi, the Clinton administration fired cruise missiles to take out a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan that may have been producing chemical weapons for al-Qaida.



In this Aug. 31, 2012 file photo, fighters from Islamist group Ansar Dine stand guard in Timbuktu, Mali, as they prepare to publicly lash a member of the Islamic Police found guilty of adultery. AP

White House mulls how to strike over Libya attack

By **KIMBERLY DOZIER and RUKMINI CALLIMACHI**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It was a way to say, 'Look, we did something,'" he said.

On the subject of developing a special operations unit, U.S. officials received approval from Congress well before the Benghazi attack to reprogram some funding in the budget that could be used for the commando program in Libya. But the details are still being discussed with the Libyans and also must get final approval from Congress, according to the defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to dis-

cuss the matter publicly. The initial cost is estimated at about \$6.2 million.

The defense official said U.S. leaders have recognized the need to train Libyan commando forces, but details such as the size, mission and the composition of the forces are still being finalized.

A Washington-based analyst with extensive experience in Africa said administration officials have approached him for help in connecting the dots to Mali, whose northern half fell to al-Qaida-linked rebels this spring. They

wanted to know if he could suggest potential targets, which he says he was not able to do.

"The civilian side is looking into doing something, and is running into a lot of pushback from the military side," the analyst said. "The resistance that is coming from the military side is because the military has both worked in the region and trained in the region. So they are more realistic."

Islamists in the region are preparing for a reaction from the U.S.

"If America hits us, I promise you

Ansar fighters to leaders of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, or AQIM, bragging about it. The affiliate's leaders are known to be mostly in northern Mali, where they have seized a territory as large as Texas following a coup in the country's capital.

But U.S. investigators have only loosely linked "one or two names" to the attack, and they lack proof that it was planned ahead of time, or that the local fighters had any help from the larger al-Qaida affiliate, officials say.

If that proof is found, the White

House must decide whether to ask Libyan security forces to arrest the suspects with an eye to extraditing them to the U.S. for trial, or to simply target the suspects with U.S. covert action.

U.S. officials say covert action is more likely. The FBI couldn't gain access to the consulate until weeks after the attack, so it is unlikely it will be able to build a strong criminal case. The U.S. is also leery of trusting the arrest and questioning of the suspects to the fledgling Libyan security forces and legal system still building after the overthrow of Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

The burden of proof for U.S. covert action is far lower, but action by the CIA or special operations forces still requires a body of evidence that shows the suspect either took part in the violence or presents a "continuing and persistent, imminent threat" to U.S. targets, current and former officials said.

"If the people who were targeted were themselves directly complicit in this attack or directly affiliated with a group strongly implicated in the attack, then you can make an argument of imminence of threat," said Robert Grenier, former director of the CIA's Counterterrorism Center.

But if the U.S. acts alone to target them in Africa, "it raises all kinds of sovereignty issues ... and makes people very uncomfortable," said Grenier, who has criticized the CIA's heavy use of drones in Pakistan without that government's support.

Even a strike that happens with permission could prove problematic, especially in Libya or Mali, where al-Qaida supporters are currently based. Both countries have fragile, interim governments that could lose popular support if they are seen allowing the U.S. unfettered access to hunt al-Qaida.

The Libyan government is so wary of the U.S. investigation expanding into unilateral action that it refused requests to arm the drones now being flown over Libya. Libyan officials have complained publicly that they were unaware of how large the U.S. intelligence presence was in Benghazi until a couple of dozen U.S. officials showed up at the airport after the attack, waiting to be evacuated—roughly twice the number of U.S. staff the Libyans thought were there. A number of those waiting to be evacuated worked for U.S. intelligence, according to two American officials.

In Mali, U.S. officials have urged the government to allow special operations trainers to return, to work with Mali's forces to push al-Qaida out of that country's northern area. AQIM is among the groups that filled the power vacuum after a coup by rebellious Malian forces in March.

U.S. special operations forces trainers left Mali just days after the coup. While such trainers have not been invited to return, the U.S. has expanded its intelligence effort on Mali, focusing satellite and spy flights over the contested northern region to track and map the militant groups vying for control of the territory, officials say.

In northern Mali, residents in the three largest cities say they hear the sound of airplanes overhead but can't spot them. That's standard for drones, which are often invisible to the naked eye, flying several thousand feet above ground.

Residents say the plane sounds have increased sharply in recent weeks, following both the attack in Benghazi and the growing calls for a military intervention in Mali.

Chabane Arby, a 23-year-old student from Timbuktu, said the planes make a growling sound overhead. "When they hear them, the Islamists come out and start shooting into the sky," he said.

Aoubacrine Aidarra, another resident of Timbuktu, said the planes circle overhead both day and night. "I have a friend who said he recently saw six at one time, circling overhead. ... They are planes that fly at high altitudes. But they make a big sound."

**if you do harm to America,
we will track you to the gates
of hell if need be.**

Campus Life

GCA competitors soar high in October PGFC

Bagging the most numbers of awards in both K-2 and 3-5 divisions, Grace Christian Academy competitors soared high like their school mascot, the eagle, in the first Primary Grades Forensic Conference competition participated by different private and public schools last Oct. 6, 2012.

It was also the first PGFC competition held at the school's Navy Hill campus.

The Grace Christian Academy administration, faculty and staff, and parents of would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in the competition.

K-2 DIVISION

Impromptu Speaking A

Jada Lauryn Buniag, 1st Place
Makena Carrasco, 2nd Place
Julia Christine Jinang, 3rd Place
Briston James Jones, 4th Place
Timothy Neal, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking A

Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 1st Place
Brandie Matsumoto, 2nd Place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 3rd Place
Kei Lizama, 4th Place
Juruel Neilan Magtalas, 5th Place

Readers Forum Masters A

Brandie Matsumoto, 2nd Place
Juruel Neilan Magtalas, 4th Place

Readers Forum A

Shielly Yoon, 5th Place

Readers Forum B

Mikaelah Owens, 3rd Place
Ryan Daproza, 5th Place



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's October PGFC winners have their picture taken inside the GCA chapel/auditorium.

Dramatic Interpretation A

Julianna Rue Magtalas, 3rd Place
Matthew Gabriel Ernest, 4th Place
Ryan Daproza, 5th Place

Choral Speaking A

Briston James Jones, 4th Place
Katelyn Mafnas, 4th Place
Timothy Neal, 4th Place
Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 4th Place
Kaydence Wayana Ria Sasaki, 4th Place

3-5 DIVISION

Impromptu Speaking A

Jim Michael Ham, 1st Place
James Alexander Keaton, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking B

Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 1st Place
Matt Jason Moran, 5th Place

Reader's Forum Masters A

Anna Camille Nunez, 1st Place
Jim Michael Ham, 3rd Place

Reader's Forum Masters B

Matt Jason Moran, 2nd Place
Lanz Jabez Victoria, 3rd Place

Reader's Forum B

Na Lee Lee, 3rd Place

Reader's Forum C

Clerisse Llanah Dacumos, 2nd Place
Joyce Liv Francisco, 3rd Place
Luis Jerome Gaspar, 4th Place

Dramatic Interpretation A

Tae Yong Kim, 4th Place

Humorous Interpretation A

Robert Hanrey Schorr, 4th Place

Duo Interpretation A

Karissa Roselyn Quichocho, 4th Place
Jimin Woo, 4th Place

Duo Interpretation B

Tae Yong Kim, 2nd Place
Lanz Jabez Victoria, 2nd Place

Choral Speaking A

Justin Laurence Del Rosario, 2nd Place
Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 2nd Place
Jaiden Kayla Sabugo, 2nd Place
Jessa May Heart Santos, 2nd Place

PGFC Coordinator: Mrs. Esther

Manzano

**FHB, Guam Business Magazine
award \$20,615 in scholarships**

First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* awarded a total of \$20,615 in scholarships to 15 students in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements. Six students from Guam and nine students from Saipan are the recipients of the 2012 First Hawaiian Bank *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year scholarship awards.

Since 2006, the program has awarded a total of \$138,450 in scholarships to 64 deserving students in the community.

The First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year Award program provides funding for student scholarships at three higher education institutions in the Marianas: University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College. The scholarships are intended to promote higher education through financial assistance for college students pursuing professional careers.

The following Guam college students were presented with First Hawaiian Bank *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year scholarships at a special awards presentation on Oct. 10 at the First Hawaiian Bank Maite Branch:

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

- Marie Fraince Javier
- Jay-Lynn Mendiola
- Ira Marie Palero

GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

- Floregine Dela Cruz
- Ageline Sahagun
- Ha'ane-Joy San Nicolas

Scholarships were presented to the following nine Saipan students at a similar award presentation held Oct. 9 at the Northern Marianas College in Saipan.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

- Nazario Omar Ajoste
- Candelaria Tabora Aldan
- Jatana Cabrera
- Marie Luise Del Carmen
- Kathleen Ann Laurio
- Yolanda Lizama
- Alvi Jane Manabat
- Keneisha Parks
- Eldred Sanchez

The scholarships were awarded based on the recipients' total number of credit hours enrolled in the fall semester, their grades, involvement in the community and potential to become successful businesspeople. All applicants were required to submit a written essay and evidence of financial need. Each of the recipients has a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Applications were open to full-time and part-time students of the three educational institutions.

Funds for the scholarships were raised through the 2012 First Hawaiian Bank Guam Business Magazine Businesswoman of the Year Gala, held on April 28, 2012. In addition to raising funds for these scholarships, the annual event recognizes women who make a difference in business.

The 2012 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award recipient was Mary P. Torre, president of Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and president of MARQ Consulting Services. (PR)

GMS students bag major honors at PGFC

Green Meadow School management, faculty and staff, the PTSA, and STU-CO have another reason to celebrate and be extremely proud of. Joined by friends and supporters, the whole GMS family celebrates the outstanding performance of participating GMS students at the recent PGFC held on Oct. 6, 2012, at the Grace Christian Academy campus.

GMS president Mila Merjilla congratulates and expresses her appreciation to teachers, parents, and students who all helped the participating students prepare for the PGFC. GMS also recognizes and appreciates the parents and teachers who served as volunteer judges.

K-2 DIVISION:

Dramatic Interpretation

Jill Anne Mallari, 1st place

Duo Interpretation

Areeza Anda, 2nd place
Ariel Alysa Legaspi, 2nd place

Humorous Interpretation

Jill Anne Mallari, 3rd place

Readers Forum A

Andrielle Coloma, 3rd place

Choral Speaking:

Christian Bherth Daniel, 3rd place



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mila Merjilla, second from left, back row, president of Green Meadow School, joins teachers and winning students at the recent PGFC tilt held at Grace Christian Academy on Oct. 6, 2012.

Lyndon Digno, 3rd place
Raphael Galang, 3rd place
Christian Ted Pamintuan, 3rd place
Keith Villasin, 3rd place

Readers Forum

Chealzka Navarro, 4th place

Humorous Interpretation

Raphael Galang, 4th place

Duo Interpretation

Kezia Arugay, 4th place
Cloe Lagmay, 4th place

3-5 DIVISION

Dramatic Interpretation

Natalie Jane Hirshbein, 1st place

Duo Interpretation

Gia Gerrine Hemley, 1st place
Mikee Mame Mendoza, 1st place

Duo Interpretation

Art Vincent Alfeche, 3rd place
Ian Willard Ranin, 3rd place

Dramatic Interpretation

Joshua Krister Alfred, 3rd place

Choral Speaking

Joshua Krister Alfred, 4th place
Jody Coloma, 4th place
Aljanah Manabat, 4th place
Angeline Norcio, 4th place

Duo Interpretation

Aljanah Manabat, 5th place
Angeline Norcio, 5th place

Choral Speaking

Aldraine Galang, 5th place
Gia Gerrine Hemley, 5th place
Mikee Mame Mendoza, 5th place
Miles Gregory Navarro, 5th place
Renz Lester Satur, 5th place

Duo Interpretation

Natalie Jane Hirshbein, 5th place
Ashley Reganit, 5th place

Coaches :

K-5, Ms. Sony Natividad
1st Grade, Ms. Meliza Umali
2nd Grade, Ms. Bona Angeles
3rd Grade, Ms. Liza Quiambao
4th Grade, Mr. Manuel Castro
5th Grade, Ms. Ellen Alejo - PGFC Coordinator

Volunteer judges:

Ms. Elvie Armea, Ms. Beth Capili, Ms. Analyn Danan, and Ms. Myrna Medina.

Life & Style

Rocking at 50: Rolling Stones to tour again

LONDON (AP)—You can't always get what you want—but if your desire is to attend a Rolling Stones concert this might be your lucky day.

The legendary band said Monday it would return to the stage this year with four concerts in Britain and the United States. The shows will take place on Nov. 25 and 29 at London's O2 Arena, followed by gigs on Dec. 13 and 15 at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, just outside of New York.

The shows mark the first time in five years that the Stones have performed live, with Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood all coming together once more. The band said it was

the "crowning glory" of celebrations marking its 50th anniversary of its first gig.

"Everybody loves a celebration, and London and New York are two good places to do it in," Jagger said in a statement.

The Stones have sold more than 200 million records, with hits including "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," "Street Fighting Man" and "You Can't Always Get What You Want."

But in recent years much of their income has come from touring. Their last global tour, "A Bigger Bang," earned more than \$500 million between 2005 and 2007.

Their legions of fans will hear era-defining tracks such as

"Gimme Shelter," "Jumping Jack Flash," "Tumbling Dice," "It's Only Rock and Roll," plus a few surprises and other classics from GRRR!, the multi-format album coming out in November.

"GRRR!" is a greatest hits collection that includes two new songs "Doom and Gloom" and "One More Shot," recorded recently in Paris—the first new recordings since the 2005 album "A Bigger Bang."

The band promises an all-new, custom-built set design, featuring the tongue and floppy lip logo, that will "reach out into the crowd." A wider tour is not planned, though the Dec. 15 performance will be available on pay per view.

SKorea lifts ban on graphic Marquis de Sade novel

PARIS (AP)—It's been almost two centuries since his death, yet French writer the Marquis de Sade has lost none of his ability to trigger moral debate.

In Asia, South Korea has lifted a monthlong ban on his graphic novel "120 Days of Sodom" after a national censorship board gave the book another read.

The book, which follows four rich French libertines through orgies, pedophilia and rape, was written in Paris in 1785 but remained unpublished until the early 1900s.

It hit South Korean bookshelves in August after a Korean translation was published—more than 220 years after Sade penned the original manuscript.

The novel, accused by Seoul authorities of "triggering ... violent excitement," was banned Sept. 6 by the country's Publication Ethics Commission from publication and was recalled from stores nationwide.

Some Seoul residents also signed a petition protesting the book, which features scenes of incest and animal cruelty, for its

"obscene and sexual content."

But following an outcry from the publisher over freedom of expression, the commission reread the book. In a meeting with Korean academics and novelists, they recognized its literary value and lifted the ban on Oct. 11.

Commission official Jang Tag-Hwan said Monday the group decided that the work—written by Sade while he was imprisoned in Paris' Bastille prison—also explored hard truths about mankind and "attempted to delve into the inner side of human greed."

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†LUCIANO RECANA GENESAN

January 07, 1950 – October 11, 2012

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his family, friends and staff of Sablan Topline

His remains will depart Commonwealth Health Center at 8:00am on Friday, October 19, 2012 to Kristo Rai Church. Responso service and Holy Rosary will be at 8:15am followed by viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Funeral services will be held at his hometown in Cavite, Philippines.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Lisa P. Sablan and staff of Sablan Topline Company

Message of Appreciation

On the passing of our beloved

†Robert Jason Santos Deleon Guerrero

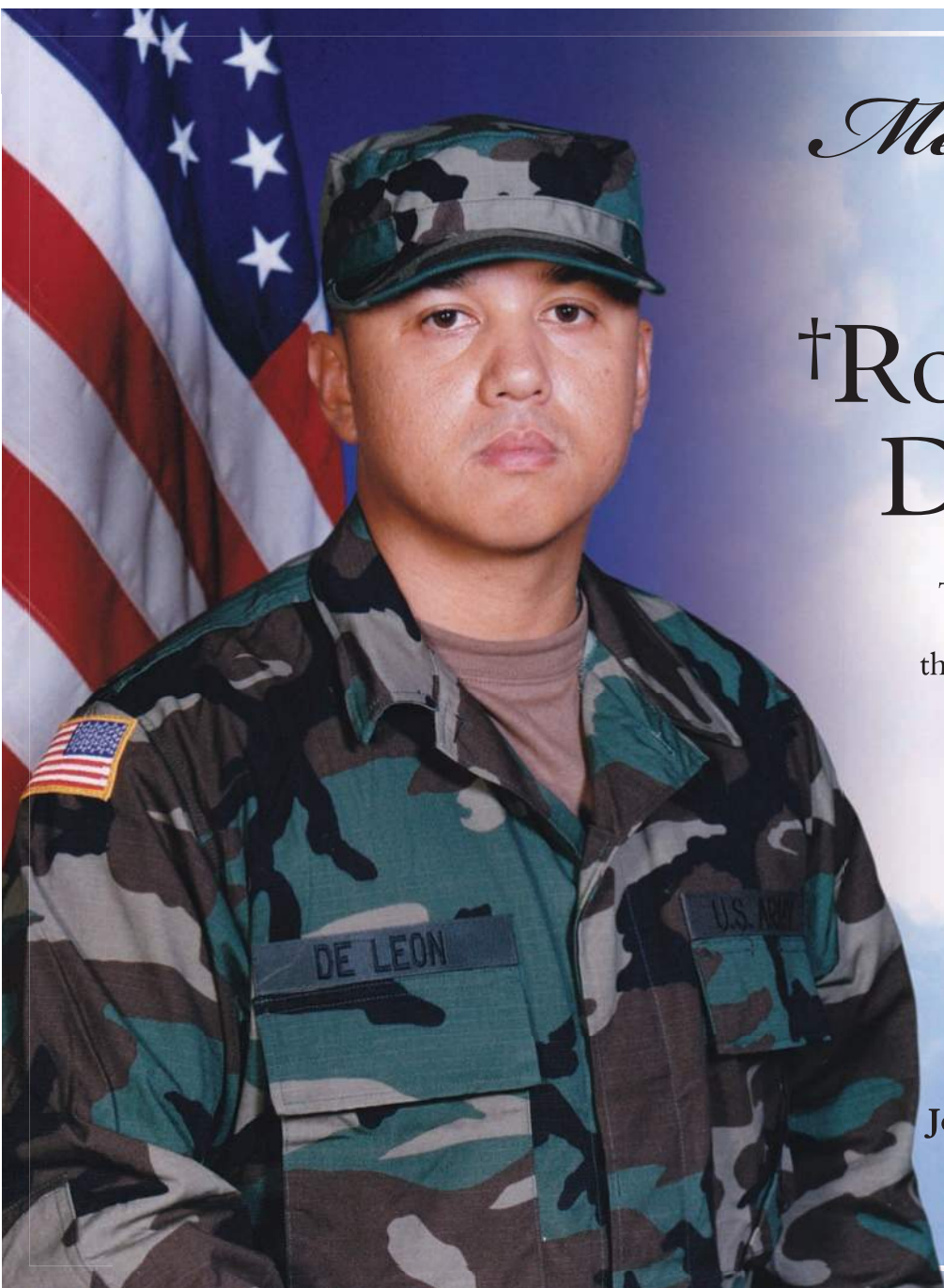
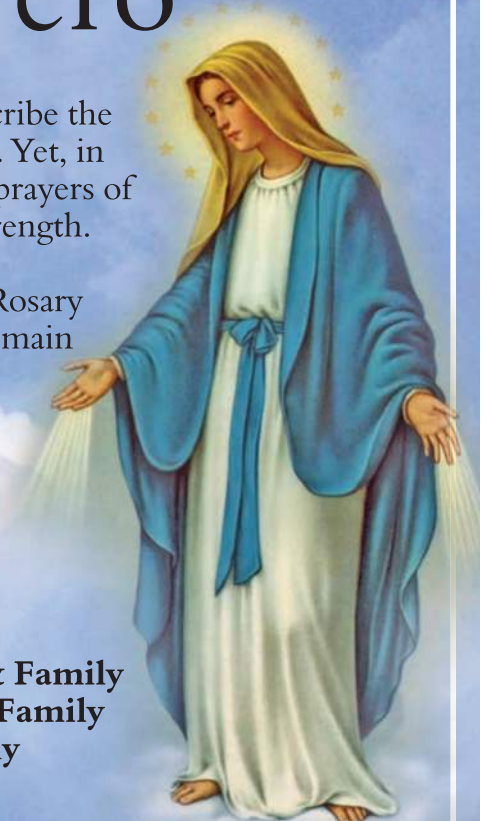
There are no words adequate enough to describe the pain felt upon losing one's husband and son. Yet, in this time of sorrow, the gracious support and prayers of family and friends have been a source of strength.

Your presence and prayers at the Nightly Rosary and at the Mass of Christian Burial will remain in our hearts always.

May our loving and kind Lord bless and keep you all in his heart.

Dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase.

**Jennifer Lee Cabrera Deleon Guerrero & Family
Bobby Pan & Lucy Deleon Guerrero & Family
Antonio & Agnes Cabrera & Family**



Teen having unprotected sex causes concern for stepmom

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My 15-year-old stepson, "Justin," doesn't drink or do drugs. For the most part, he stays out of trouble. The problem is, he has been caught for the third time having unprotected sex.

My anger isn't at Justin so much as at his parents, obviously his father. Justin has lied repeatedly about this. His father lets him get away with many things, for the most part minor. But this is different. A 15-year-old boy can't take care of a baby, and having sex with multiple partners means exposing everyone involved to STDs.

My husband is a smart man, but for some reason he seems to think this will end well. I worry about his son becoming a father too soon and missing out on his full potential. My husband and his ex have dealt with this by trying to ignore it, and for the most part I haven't involved myself. But the more I think about it, the more I see the danger of Justin's life being changed forever because his parents don't want to make him unhappy for a minute.

I love my husband and stepson. Allowing this to continue isn't the right path for anyone. Am I overreacting? If not, what can I do that won't cause a huge blowup with my husband?

ALARMED IN CHICAGO

DEAR ALARMED: You're not overreacting. Your husband is doing his son no favors by enabling his irresponsible behavior instead of asserting himself and acting like a parent. Justin may think that fathering a child will make him a "real man." But unless your husband can get through to him that REAL men take care of themselves and their partners, and REAL men don't risk bringing children into the world they can't take care of, then face it: He's letting his son play baby roulette, and it's only a matter of time until he'll be a grandpa.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My son has a wonderful girlfriend, "Michelle." They live with my ex-husband and visit my husband, "Daryl," and me twice a month and on special occasions. Michelle is sweet, caring, smart and funny. The problem is, she doesn't wear a bra. Ever.

Relatives have commented about it to us at family gatherings because she's not flat-chested. We already know. It's obvious. Daryl feels a woman should go without a bra only in the privacy of her own home, and I agree. He thinks I should buy Michelle a bra as a "subtle hint." I don't think that's wise, and I don't want to offend her.

Because it doesn't seem to matter to my son, should we continue to keep our opinions to ourselves?

SEES A NEED FOR SUPPORT IN FLORIDA

DEAR SEES A NEED: Because people are talking, it would be a kindness to say something to Michelle — but DELICATELY, so she doesn't think you are criticizing her. If you have a good relationship with her, invite her to join you for lunch and, while you're on the subject of the last gathering, mention that some of the relatives noticed her bralessness. Then tell her that you need to go lingerie shopping and invite her along. Ask her to help you pick out a few pretty things for yourself, and then offer to treat her to some things she likes. She just may take you up on it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Tina Fey, Amy Poehler to host Golden Globes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tina Fey and Amy Poehler are teaming up for the Golden Globes.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, dick clark productions and the NBC television network announced Monday that the pair of "30 Rock" and "Parks and Recreation" TV comedy stars have signed on to host the 70th annual Golden Globes ceremony after British comedian Ricky Gervais' three-year reign as the show's acerbic emcee.

"The unparalleled comedic timing of Tina and Amy will surely have viewers wanting to tune-in to see them in action," said Takla-O'Reilly, president of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association,



Fey



Poehler

which honors film and TV at the Beverly Hills Hilton ceremony. "The HFPA is thrilled to have the magnetic duo be a part of the show's 70th anniversary!"

The funny lady duo previously starred together in the films "Mean Girls" and "Baby Mama" and on "Saturday Night Live." They co-hosted the NBC sketch comedy series' "Weekend Up-

date" satiric news segment from 2004 to 2006.

"Having both Tina Fey and Amy Poehler on board to host this year's festivities is a major coup," said Paul Telegdy, president of alternative and late night programming at NBC. "Tina and Amy have a proven chemistry and comedic timing from their many years together on 'SNL' to their successful co-starring roles in 'Baby Mama.'"

Poehler's "Parks and Recreation" is currently in its fifth season on NBC, while Fey's "30 Rock" is airing its seventh and final season on the network.

This year's Golden Globes cer-

emony was watched by 16.8 million TV viewers, finishing within 1 percent of the 17 million viewers who tuned in to the 2011 broadcast, according to the Nielsen Co.

The Globes are usually handed out about a week before the Academy Award nominations are announced, but that won't be the case next year. The motion-picture academy has moved up the Oscar nominations announcement to Jan. 10—three days before the Globes are set to air Jan. 13. The earlier date for the nomination unveiling for the 85th annual Academy Awards, which will be hosted Feb. 24 by "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane, could steal attention away from the Globes.

Hulk Hogan sues friend, gossip site over sex tape

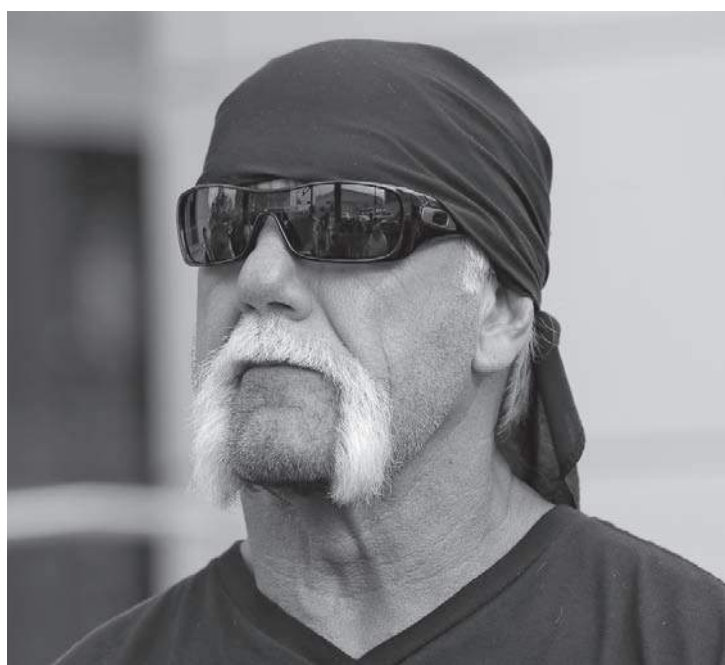
TAMPA, Florida (AP)—Former pro wrestler Hulk Hogan sued a disc jockey, the DJ's ex-wife and a gossip website Monday after a sex tape involving Hogan and the woman was posted online.

Hogan said in two lawsuits that he had consensual sex with his best friend's wife, Heather Clem, about six years ago in the Clemes' home, but he did not know he was being secretly recorded.

"Mr. Hogan had a reasonable expectation of his privacy, just as all Americans have a reasonable expectation of their privacy in their bedrooms," attorney Charles Harder said.

The video was posted on the online gossip site Gawker. Hogan is seeking \$100 million in damages from the New York-based media company, which declined comment.

It's unclear who gave the video



Reality TV star and former pro wrestler Hulk Hogan, whose real name is Terry Bollea, looks on as his attorney speaks during a news conference Monday, Oct. 15, 2012 at the United States Courthouse in Tampa, Fla.

to Gawker.

In the suit against the Clemes, Hogan claimed the video caused "severe and irreparable injury which cannot be adequately compensated by monetary damages." Hogan is seeking the rights to the video in both lawsuits.

Hogan, whose real name is Terry Bollea, wore a tight black T-shirt, black pants and dark sunglasses as he stood outside of the federal court in Tampa while his attorneys spoke to the media. He did not comment.

It's not clear whether Hogan and Bubba the Love Sponge Clem are still friends. The Clemes have since divorced.

Hogan acknowledged on various TV talk shows recently that he had sex with Heather Clem while he was married to Linda Hogan. The Hogans have also divorced.

Usher in London: the Peter Pan of R&B turns 34

LONDON (AP)—R&B star Usher says he still feels 21, despite just celebrating his 34th birthday.

The singer "danced all night" in London with a host of British singing talent Saturday night before his birthday Sunday, including Leona Lewis, Tinie Tempah, Dizzee Rascal and JLS star Ortise Williams. But Usher says that's not where the party is

going to end.

"It's really going to be a party celebration week as opposed to weekend," he said.

In London to promote the computer game "Dance Central 3" for Xbox, Usher also talked about his recent decision to put his European tour dates on hold in order to "do something really creative."

The American R&B star is joining the judging panel on the American talent show "The Voice," a role he can't wait to fill.

"I haven't really had the chance to show people what I do behind the scenes in regards to mentoring, so this will kind

of give you a different perspective" about me, he told The Associated Press.

Aside from designing video games and mentoring young hopefuls, Usher just premiered a new music video for his latest single "Numb."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Bynes pleads not guilty to unlicensed driving

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Amanda Bynes has pleaded not guilty to two counts of driving on a suspended license. Court records show Bynes' attorney Robert J. Wilson entered the pleas Monday in Burbank, California, on behalf of the actress. The 26-year-old's car was impounded at the Bob Hope Airport in September and she was charged with the misdemeanor counts days later. The incident came after Bynes was charged in separate driving under the influence and hit-and-run cases. She has pleaded not guilty in those cases, but her license was suspended and a judge ordered her to stop driving until it's re-instated. Bynes rose to fame starring in Nickelodeon's "All That" and her own variety show. She also starred in several films, including 2010's "Easy A."

Walters to interview Lindsay Lohan next month

NEW YORK (AP) — Barbara Walters says she will interview Lindsay Lohan next month for ABC's "20/20" newsmagazine. Walters announced on Monday's edition of her talk show, "The View," that the interview will air on Nov. 16. It paves the way for Lohan's would-be comeback project, "Liz & Dick," which premieres later that month. The Lifetime biopic stars the 26-year-old actress as screen diva Elizabeth Taylor. It spotlights Taylor's quarter-century love affair with celebrated leading man Richard Burton, whom she married and divorced twice. Grant Bowler, whose credits include the TV series "True Blood" and "Lost," plays Burton in the film.

Judge dismisses 'Bachelor' discrimination case

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—A federal judge on Monday dismissed a case filed by two black men who claimed ABC's reality dating shows, "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette," discriminated against casting participants of color.

U.S. District Court Judge Aleta Trauger's ruling states that casting decisions by the TV network and the series' producers are protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing freedom of speech and the case should not continue.

Nathaniel Claybrooks and Christopher Johnson sued ABC in April, claiming their bids to appear on "The Bachelor" were never given serious consideration. They claimed the show and its spinoff "The Bachelorette" discriminated against nonwhite participants.

Trauger's ruling calls the plain-

tiffs' efforts "laudable" but says the lawsuit is aimed at regulating the show's content, which is forbidden under the First Amendment.

"Ultimately, whatever messages 'The Bachelor' and 'The Bachelorette' communicate or are intended to communicate—whether explicitly, implicitly, intentionally, or otherwise—the First Amendment protects the right of the producers of these shows to craft and control those messages, based on whatever considerations the producers wish to take into account," Trauger wrote.

ABC lauded the ruling, saying, "We felt from the onset this case was completely without merit and we are pleased the Court has found in our favor."

An email sent to attorney Byron Perkins, who represented Claybrooks and Johnson, was not immediately returned.

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Giants crush Cardinals to even NLCS



SAN FRANCISCO
(AP)—The

sight of Marco Scutaro on the ground in pain after getting flattened by Matt Holliday's hard takeout was just the spark the San Francisco Giants needed.

Scutaro even got into the act with his own big blow that helped the Giants end their home slide.

Scutaro hit a two-run single in San Francisco's four-run fourth inning before leaving with a hip injury and the Giants got their first home win this postseason, 7-1 over the St. Louis Cardinals on Monday night to tie the NL championship series at one game apiece.

"It just kind of pumps you up," Giants outfielder Hunter Pence said. "When you see one of your guys go down, you always want to win the game, but it's like, 'Let's go. Let's put it on the scoreboard.'"

Scutaro left after the fifth because of his damaged left hip on a play Giants manager Bruce Bochy felt was illegal. X-rays were negative, and Scutaro likely will get an MRI on Tuesday. There was no word on his future status.

"In hindsight, I wish I would have started the slide a little earlier but it happened so fast," Holliday said. "I hope he's OK, he's a good guy. I was more interested in breaking up the double play."

The series now shifts to St. Louis for three games, starting with Game 3 on Wednesday when San Francisco ace Matt Cain takes on Kyle Lohse of the Cardinals.

Things got off to a testy start when Holliday barreled into Scutaro at second base to break up a potential double play in the first inning. The play riled



St. Louis Cardinals' Allen Craig, left, appears to tag San Francisco Giants' Gregor Blanco, as the latter heads back to first base on a fly ball during the eighth inning of Game 2 of baseball's National League championship series, Monday, Oct. 15, 2012, in San Francisco. The umpires called him safe. The Giants won, 7-1.

up a crowd that had seen three straight losses by the Giants so far this postseason.

There was plenty to cheer all night for the Giants. Ryan Vogelsong pitched seven strong innings, Angel Pagan hit a leadoff homer to give San Francisco its first home lead this postseason, and Scutaro broke the game open with his single off Chris Carpenter.

"That shows you how tough he is," Bochy said. "I really think they got away with an il-

legal slide there. That rule was changed a while back. And he really didn't hit dirt until he was past the bag. Marco was behind the bag and got smoked. It's a shame somebody got hurt because of this. That's more of a roadblock."

Making Scutaro's hit even sweeter for the Giants was the fact that Holliday misplayed the ball in left field, allowing a third run to score on the error.

"There's baseball gods. There's definitely baseball

gods," former Giants first baseman Will Clark said. "There's a reason why he hits a (single) and Holliday boots the ball he hit. Baseball gods shine in weird ways."

The Giants also benefited from a missed call by an umpire in the eighth inning after St. Louis center fielder Jon Jay made a spectacular, diving catch to rob Brandon Crawford of a hit.

Jay threw toward first and the Cardinals should have gotten a double play, but first base umpire Bill Miller did not see Allen Craig tag Gregor Blanco's jersey as he raced back to first on the play.

St. Louis manager Mike Matheny argued the call and the umpires huddled to discuss it, but they kept the safe call even though replays showed Craig made the tag. The Giants capitalized when Ryan Theriot hit a two-run single to make it 7-1.

"I'm not going to take a hard stance one way or another on the replay," Matheny said.

"That really wasn't the game today," he said. "But every once in a while there's a big play that does change the course of the game and I'm not against having something else to help get it right. Our guys work hard to make the right plays and execute, so we want things called fairly."

Back at Busch Stadium, Holliday will be cheered after being the target of boos all night following his aggressive play on the basepaths.

With runners on first and second and one out, Craig hit a bouncer to Crawford, and the shortstop quickly flipped to Scutaro for the forceout.

Holliday, a former high school football star in Oklahoma, came tumbling in and slid late into Scutaro, crushing his

left leg to prevent up the double play. Scutaro lay on the ground twisting in pain while trainer Dave Groeschner and Bochy ran out of the dugout to attend to the second baseman.

"A lot of guys take pride in breaking up double plays. Holliday is one of them," Cardinals second baseman Daniel Descalso said. "On slowly hit balls you're going to get hit. You don't want anyone to get hurt, but I'm all for playing the game hard."

Vogelsong got out of the jam by retiring Yadier Molina on a groundout.

"I just really was trying to make the next pitch to get the guy out so we could get him in the dugout," Vogelsong said.

Scutaro stayed in the game with a limp until being replaced in the sixth by Theriot. By then, he had done his damage with the bat in the big fourth inning.

The rally started innocently enough with a bloop, opposite field double by Brandon Belt and a chopper over third baseman David Freese by Blanco. Crawford then hit a bouncer between the mound and first base that Carpenter fielded and threw away toward first base. It appeared Crawford may have impeded Carpenter by running inside the baseline but the Cardinals did not argue the play.

With the bases loaded and two outs, Scutaro lined his single to left-center that Holliday misplayed to the delight of Giants fans, putting Carpenter and the Cardinals into a 5-1 hole.

"He's a clutch hitter, he always has been, I know that since he's been over here," Carpenter said. "He's not going to miss those opportunities."

Vogelsong made the lead hold up by becoming the first Giants starter to make it through six innings this postseason. He allowed four hits and one run for his first career postseason win.

These teams have a history of contentious meetings in the NLCS from Jeffrey Leonard's one-flap down home run trot in 1987 that riled up the Cardinals to a benches-clearing dustup 10 years ago when St. Louis reliever Mike Cradale buzzed Kenny Lofton after he showboated on a home run.

Verlander the next obstacle for slumping Yankees

DETROIT (AP)—There were times this year when Justin Verlander took the mound while his team was reeling a bit—and the right-hander's presence was Detroit's best shot at snapping out of a momentary funk.

Now, the hard-throwing ace is in a different situation. Led by Verlander, the Tigers' rotation has been absolutely terrific this postseason, and his job is simply to keep this remarkable run going against the slumping New York Yankees.

"I think pitching, much like hitting, is contagious," Verlander said. "Guys go out there night in and night out and see guys have a good game, and the next day he wants to have a good game, so on and so forth. And I think that's what we are feeding on right now."

The Tigers won the first two games of the AL championship series in New York, holding the Yankees scoreless except for one brief uprising against

closer-in-limbo Jose Valverde. With the exception of Valverde, no Detroit pitcher has allowed an earned run since Game 3 of the division series against Oakland.

Verlander takes the mound Tuesday night in Game 3 of the ALCS. The reigning AL MVP won both his starts against the A's, throwing a shutout in the decisive fifth game.

"As a rotation, right now things are going well," Verlander said during Monday's off-day. "It is nice to see us get rolling as a group, and hopefully we can continue it through the World Series."

Detroit's starters have posted an 0.94 ERA in the playoffs this year. The postseason record for a starting staff pitching at least seven games is 1.05, set by the 1920 Cleveland Indians, according to STATS LLC.

Verlander, Max Scherzer, Doug Fister and Anibal Sanchez are off to that type of start

this year.

Detroit's pitching display has gone hand in hand with New York's horrendous slump. Derek Jeter is out for the year after breaking an ankle in Game 1 of this series, and the Yankees desperately need their other stars to start hitting. Robinson Cano, Alex Rodriguez, Curtis Granderson and Nick Swisher are a combined 12 for 107—for a .112 batting average—in the playoffs.

Add catcher Russell Martin, and five regulars are below .200, hitting a combined 17 for 133 with 42 strikeouts - 25 more strikeouts than hits. They have a combined seven RBIs, four of those by Cano.

"We can't score seven runs, eight runs in one at-bat," first baseman Mark Teixeira said. "It's momentum. When things are going bad, they can be really bad, but when things are going good, we're capable of putting up a whole bunch of runs."

Reds extend Baker's deal for 2 years

CINCINNATI (AP)—Reds owner Bob Castellini couldn't imagine Dusty Baker leaving.

The 63-year-old manager got a two-year contract extension Monday, giving him another chance to take Cincinnati deep into the playoffs. They've been there twice in the last three years, failing both times to get past the division series.

Baker missed the Reds' NL Central title celebration this year because he was hospitalized with an irregular heartbeat and a mini-stroke. He returned and lost ace Johnny Cueto at the start of their series against San

Francisco, which ended with the Giants rallying to win Game 5.

The team's first big question of the offseason was whether it would bring Baker back for another try.

"This is Dusty's team," Castellini said. "These fellas are poised to go deeper and deeper in the season. To not bring Dusty back or not ask Dusty to come back was out of the question."

Baker is feeling much better, and the Reds have the nucleus of their 97-win team returning next year, including one of the deepest pitching staffs in the major leagues. When the club

offered another two-year deal—same as the last one—Baker quickly agreed.

"It's very much the same contract and very much the same thing for all of us up here: There's work left to be done," Baker said. "I didn't want to leave on a note that we still have work to do."

"I don't want to leave in a situation where for the rest of my life I would have regretted not coming back with unfinished business. It would have left a real pain in my heart to feel the way I did at the end of the season."

Manning's 3 TD passes spur Broncos' comeback



SAN DIEGO (AP)—It took a quarterback of Peyton Manning's caliber to pull off this kind of comeback.

After the Denver Broncos slogged through a nightmare of a first half, Manning showed that he's still one of the NFL's best.

Manning threw three touchdown passes in the second half and Tony Carter and Chris Harris scored off turnovers by Philip Rivers as the Broncos overcame a 24-0 halftime deficit to shock the San Diego Chargers 35-24 on Monday night.

"It sure was special considering what was on the line," said Manning, a Super Bowl winner and four-time NFL MVP who's in his first season with the Broncos.

Manning was 13 of 14 for 167 yards in the second half for the Broncos (3-3) who tied the Chargers (3-3) atop the AFC West.

It tied for the fourth-biggest regular-season comeback in NFL history.

Manning had been 1-5 in his last six games against San Di-



Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning motions to teammates during the first half of an NFL football game against the San Diego Chargers, Monday, Oct. 15, 2012, in San Diego. AP

ego, all with Indianapolis.

Rivers was intercepted four

times—three in the fourth quarter—and lost two fumbles. The

four pickoffs and six turnovers were both career-highs.

A week earlier, the Chargers blew a 10-point lead in the third quarter in a 31-24 loss at New Orleans.

"When you lose it's rough, especially in a game where you had a big lead and so much at stake," Rivers said.

The Broncos seemed finished after an awful first half in which Manning served up an 80-yard interception return for a touchdown by Quentin Jammer and two special teams fumbles led to 10 points for the Chargers.

"I thought we had a good plan. It was so disappointing to have these special team mistakes," Manning said.

Manning began the comeback when he hit Demaryius Thomas on a 29-yard touchdown pass on the opening drive of the second half.

On the ensuing San Diego possession, Elvis Dumervil stripped the ball from Rivers and Carter ran 65 yards for a touchdown, holding up the ball

in celebration as he approached the end zone.

Denver then sacked Rivers to force a punt and Manning capped the next drive with a 7-yard touchdown pass to Eric Decker to pull to 24-21.

Manning's 21-yard touchdown pass to Brandon Stokley gave Denver its first lead of the game, 28-24 with 9:03 left. Stokley outleaped defensive back Marcus Gilchrist to catch the ball, and then got both feet down before tumbling out of the end zone.

That score was set up by Carter's interception.

Harris sealed the victory with a 46-yard interception return for a touchdown with 2:05 left. It was his second pick of the game.

"This was as good a second half of football as I've been involved in," Broncos coach John Fox said.

As for Manning, "He's real high on my list," the coach said. "He performed very well and has performed well in the last four games. He's going to keep

getting better and better."

Manning finished 24 of 30 for 309 yards with one interception.

"Regular-season game, I think this is the best," said Stokley, who was a teammate of Manning's with the Colts. "The second half was unbelievable. We needed to win big-time and to perform like he did, it was awesome."

Fox said there "were no mystery words of wisdom at halftime. "Given how poorly we played in the first half, we just said we could play better in the second half and we broke out of it."

Manning agreed.

"We came out in the second half, everybody was accountable and professional," he said. "We had 30 minutes and I thought it was important to get off to a good start with that first drive. Hitting DT for the touchdown really set the tempo for the second half."

Jammer intercepted Manning and returned it 80 yards for his first career touchdown, and Antonio Gates caught his second TD pass of the game in the second quarter, extending the Chargers' lead to 24-0.

Before Jammer's TD, the Broncos appeared on their way to their first score of the game with Manning's 55-yard pass to a wide-open Decker. But Decker tripped himself at the Chargers' 40, got up and was tackled at the 30-yard line.

Manning clapped both hands to his helmet in disbelief, one of several times the star quarterback expressed frustration.

"A piece of grass made a nice tackle," Manning joked. "Those kind of plays happen. You do kind of wonder, is this not meant to happen? Obviously Decker was sick about it."

"It's about playing 60 minutes. There's no quit in this team," Manning said.

Three plays later, Manning threw a pass straight to Jammer.

Rivers was 25 of 41 for 242 yards.

"We've got to go play a complete game," San Diego coach Norv Turner said. "We've shown through three quarters of a game what we can do."

Ravens LB Lewis, CB Webb lost for year

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)—Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis will miss the remainder of the season with an arm injury, an enormous blow to an already depleted defense that has uncharacteristically struggled this year.

Lewis tore his right triceps during Sunday's 31-29 victory over Dallas. The 37-year-old Lewis leads Baltimore in tackles and is the voice of experience in the huddle.

"Ray in the locker room afterward, we didn't know (the extent of the injury) but he was worried about it," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said Monday. "He said some things about his faith. He said some things that I'll never forget."

Over a spectacular 17-year career, Lewis has been invited to 13 Pro Bowls, was named Super Bowl MVP and is a two-time NFL defensive player of the year. He turns 38 in May, so it's possible that Sunday's game was his last.

"That's for Ray to speak on," Harbaugh said.

Baltimore also lost cornerback Lardarius Webb for the year after he tore the ACL in his left knee Sunday. The injury occurred when Webb collided with Dallas wide receiver Dez Bryant in the first quarter.

Neither Lewis nor Webb spoke after Sunday's game and both were unavailable for comment on Monday.

For Harbaugh, it was more about the players than the impact losing them would have on the team.

"I'm disappointed for those guys," Harbaugh said. "It doesn't matter how I or someone else feels about it. It's their thing. These are guys that put so much effort, heart and soul into what they do."

Webb missed the latter part of his rookie season in 2009 with a torn right ACL, and now he's facing surgery again.

"Lardarius was distraught. I could see it when I walked onto the field, on his face," Harbaugh said. "He kind of knew because he's been through it before. I just felt like he knew. He was just beside himself."

The loss of Webb took some of the edge off Baltimore's third straight win.

"I'm hurting for that guy right now," safety Ed Reed said. "I know how hard he works to be out here and what he brings to the game. We have to play for him and pick him up because he's young."

Webb, who turned 27 last week, probably has many years left to play. Lewis' status is not as certain.

Lewis missed four games last year with a toe injury. During the week and on game day he cheered for his teammates and offered encouragement. That, evidently, will be his job over the next few months.

"When you look at his situation and what he's accomplished, and what he was hoping to accomplish this year, he's going to have to accomplish those things in different ways because that's the way it's gone," Harbaugh said. "He

puts his faith in providence. That's where he's going to go with that."

Jameel McClain and Dannelle Ellerbe will fill the void left by Lewis' absence. It's the same role they filled last year.

"Those guys have played a lot of football and we've got a lot of confidence in those guys, Jameel and Dannelle," Harbaugh said. "We feel good about that."

Jimmy Smith will probably step in for Webb.

The manner in which the Ravens rebound from the loss of Lewis and Webb will determine if they make the playoffs for a fifth straight season.

"I feel great about our guy's chances to fill in," Harbaugh said. "That's something we've been able to do in the past. Obviously, that's going to define what we're going to be able to accomplish this year. That's something we're going to need to do, from a leadership standpoint and from a playing standpoint. Our chances of doing it? I won't put odds on it. That's just something that we're going to have to get done."

The Ravens (5-1) have struggled to make up for the loss of linebacker Terrell Suggs, who is recovering from a torn right Achilles tendon. Baltimore yielded 489 yards, a franchise-record 227 on the ground, against Dallas on Sunday.

Now that the defense is without its leader and best cornerback, the Ravens may have to abandon its usual method of success.

Nowitzki still experiencing knee swelling



DALLAS (AP)—Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki hopes to avoid surgery after experiencing more swelling in his troublesome right knee.

Nowitzki missed his second straight preseason game as Dallas beat Houston 123-104 Monday night. The 11-time All-Star said after the game he is going to reduce his workload over the next week and see if the swelling goes down in his knee, which has been drained twice over the past month.

The 2011 NBA Finals MVP said if there is no improvement over the next few days, he

may have no choice other than to have surgery, which would probably sideline him into the regular season.

"I guess that it's obvious that I don't want (surgery) done," Nowitzki said. "If it's going to keep swelling up on me, that's not a way to go through an 82-game season and hopefully a long playoff run."

Nowitzki said the swelling wasn't as bad as it had been when he had problems before a preseason game in Spain last Tuesday. He practiced once the team returned to Texas and experienced more swelling afterwards.

It is the same knee and same issue Nowitzki dealt with early last season. The Mavericks held their perennial All-Star out for a four-game stretch in January to improve his game conditioning and give him time to strengthen his right knee.

Nowitzki said he is going to avoid practices and scrimmages, limiting his workouts to time in the pool and on the elliptical machine.

"It makes no sense to play in the preseason on a swollen knee," Nowitzki said. "So we'll see what's going to happen in the next couple of days."

Kyodai fronts Thursday B division in SEDA league

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



SOS Bar & Grill's Fantastic Baby!, Sands Bar's Lupeyt, Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's DJ Fish, and Jonny's Bar & Grill's Kyodai are the pacesetters in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2012 Bud Light Summer/Fall Open Dart League.

Its name sums it up pretty good for the Masters leader, Fantastic Baby!, who is enjoying a 13-

game lead in its division after thumping sister team Mixblood Rookies (67-120), 15-2, in a road draw last Wednesday.

The win improved Fantastic's record to 119-68, and a way down the line comes VFW Post 3457's Maharot Crew (106-81), who pulled it together on the road to get past Sands' Juvy Especialist (51-136), 10-7, while a couple of home upsets highlighted the other pairings.

Joe's Steakhouse's Dart Seekers (105-82) absorbed a costly 5-12 road upset to SOS Bar &

Grill's Joker (101-86), and are tangled up in the standings between VFW and Es'y Kitchen's Diamond Force (105-82), which coincidentally also suffered a 7-10 dip to Oceanside Bar & Grill's Destroyers (94-93).

Notables remain a 160-high in by Diamond Force's Rick Elefante and a 145-high out by Destroyers' Eric Pascual.

Also last Wednesday, Lupeyt earned first place in C division after an 11-4 home win over Jonny's Sparks (74-91). Lupeyt now has a 109-58 card, just one

win ahead of former leader Bammy's Zyndikato (108-57), which salvaged an 8-7 victory at home over SOS's Joker Royal (98-67).

Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Hafa Mas (103-62) kept the third post despite enduring a 7-8 upset to sister team Island Apparel OH! MG (73-92), while in other results, VFW's Warriors (88-77) thwarted Oceanside's Shooters-M (46-117), 10-5, at home and Oceanside's Shottas (71-94) overcame Sands' Ascaoscho (53-112), 9-6, also at home.

Notables remain a 150-high in

by OH! MG's Carol Chargualaf and a 138-high out by Sparks' Isaac Aguon.

In the B Fanihi, DJ Fish went into Jonny's and doubled-up Rehab (64-101), 10-5, to eclipse the century mark with its league-best slate of 104-61.

Ten games in the rear resides IT&E Na'Gupu (94-71), which fell to VFW's Naughty Boyz (88-77), 6-9, at home in Naked Fish. In other results, the third-ranked Oneshot (93-72) pressed a 9-6 home triumph over Es'y's Kitchen Darters (83-82), while Oceanside's Shooters (68-97) bested Es'y's Taya Guaha (65-99), 9-6, on the road.

Notables remain a 160-high in by Naughty Boyz's John Cabrera and a 121-high out by Oneshot's Scott Guerrero.

Kyodai continues to pull away

with the B Flame Tree lead, as it stirred up yet another strong victory, this time over Joe's Dart K'nytes (69-96), 11-4. Kyodai improved to a 112-53 slate.

With Kyodai gripping a firm 15-game lead, it has really turned into a battle for second place between Naked Fish's Team Exotic (97-68) and Joe's Real Deal (96-69), which swapped seats after dropping the ball on the road last week.

VFW's Dutty Gunz (76-89) survived Team Exotic, 8-7, and Bammy's Lilapuching (82-83) upset Real Del, 9-6, while Bammy's Tok'Ka Hao (75-90) worked out a burly 13-2 road rout over Sands' Refalauan's (53-112).

Notables remain a 152-high in by Kyodai's Ton Tomokane and a 114-high out by his teammate, Allan Cabrera.

LADY

From Page 24

since the early part of the second quarter.

Mt. Carmel had nine seconds to work with and had a couple of shot opportunities, but could not get them to drop, causing quite a ruckus from the Southern's supporters in attendance and leaving the Lady Knights stunned, as they held clear control for majority of the match only to lose in the end.

The Lady Rays fought from behind almost the entire time, but kept the Lady Knights within striking distance and the former mustered all their energy for one final push in the fourth period to steal the win.

Atalig's skills showed more and more as the game pro-

gressed and she could not have peaked at a better time, especially with the absence of Southern's standout player, Roxanne Duenas. Atalig took the cudgels at crunch time to keep the Lady Rays' clean record after two games.

Vanessa Bartolo also helped Southern's cause, as her back-to-back baskets at the close of the first period put the Lady Rays in the lead, 12-10.

However, the Lady Knights assumed control in the second to take a 27-20 halftime lead. Mt. Carmel relentlessly attacked the basket and made its way to the free throw line on multiple occasions. MCS tallied 7 points from the stripe, four of which came from Michelle Kautz, who led the second quarter charge with 7 points.

Southern then moved within

4 at the end of the third period, as Atalig and Chelsea Bartolo scored 4 points apiece.

After leading in the second and third periods, Mt. Carmel appeared to slow down late in the game and did not invest enough on the defensive end. The Lady Knights were good on offense, but only had one player, Jasmine Che, battling Southern players for rebounds in the trenches.

Southern knew it was still in range for a comeback and simply outthrustled the Lady Knights for rebounds and loose balls and continued to make their rival earn every basket on the other end.

Atalig's 7 points in the fourth quarter was complemented by a three-pointer from Vanessa Bartolo, while Mt. Carmel was held to a dismal 5 markers in the clutch.

Vanessa Bartolo led the Lady Rays with her 15 points, just one basket ahead of Atalig's 13, while Mt. Carmel leaned on Kaylani Lebria's 16 markers.

With the win, Southern is now tied for the lead with defending champions MHS Dolphins, while Mt. Carmel dropped to a 1-2 card. Kagman High School completes the field and is still winless in three games

The season continues tomorrow at 4:30pm with a varsity pairing between MHS and MCS.

SSHS 44 – V.Bartolo 15, Atalig 13, C. Bartolo 6, J. Francisco 6, Quitugua 2, Rogoyang 2.

MCS 43 – Lebria 16, M. Kautz 13, Taylor 6, Demapan 5, R. Kautz 2, Che 1.

Scoring by quarters: 12-10, 20-27, 34-38, 44-43.

RASTGUIY

From Page 24

league organizer Mili Saiki of Saipan International School.

Meanwhile, COPSSA also recognized other top individual performers for the 2012-2013 season.

Named to the COPSSA All-Star Selection were Grace Christian Academy's Noah Camacho, Alyssa Nunez, and Amber Montenegro, Whispering Palms' Logan Mister, Young, and Rastguiy, Saipan Community's Elnathan Wong, Shirley Quan, and Sally Wong, SIS'

A.J. Hudkins and Emily Jones, Marianas Baptist Academy's Franz Trinidad and Katrina Reyes, and Mt. Carmel School's John Masga and Karlene Reyes.

Each member of the selection received certificates of recognition during the brief awards ceremony last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. For the team award, the MCS Knights were presented the perpetual sportsmanship trophy.

Meanwhile, the varsity play-offs will start today and will run until Friday with the GCA Eagles hoping to defend the championship they won over the SIS Geckos last season.

DLX

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on Gualo Rai at 6pm and KFC meeting San Antonio in the second game at 8pm.

KFS kept its title defense hopes alive and ousted its top-ranked foe after launching a fourth-quarter rally.

The defending champion fell behind at the end of each of the first three quarters and faced a 37-43 deficit before saving its best for last in the pivotal fourth period. Norm Black sparked KFC's rally in the final canto, making their first three baskets, while Angelo Fernando finished the

job, hitting three crucial free throws in the homestretch. KFC's winning margin of 4 points were courtesy of charities with Mico Francisco nailing the other shot from the stripe in the closing seconds of the game.

Fernando managed to score in twin digits with his 10 markers, drilling 5 of them in the final canto, while Black led KFC with his 14. Erick Dela Rosa added 12.

Eugene Manglona paced the eliminated Anjie's Boys with his 13, but was held to a free throw in the fourth frame.

In the second game, Gualo Rai picked up where it left off to continue its uphill climb in the

league and move one win away from advancing to the finals.

Gualo Rai, which dropped three of its first 4 matches but went 3-for-4 in the second half of the regular season to save a playoff berth, was ahead of Blue Haus at the end of the third period, 59-47, when their Oct. 8 match was rained out. When the match resumed, Blue Haus was contended on trading baskets with Gualo Rai in the fourth canto, allowing the latter to keep the lead and the win.

Jun Estolas top-scored for Gualo Rai with his 26, while big men Alex Lauron and Zack Diaz chipped in 12 and 11, respectively.

In the last match of the night,

San Antonio had a jackrabbit start and survived QQ's late rally in the opening canto before completely dominating the game in the last three quarters.

The young crew of San Antonio opened a 19-4 advantage in the first period before Marlon Sison anchored a QQ comeback and cut the lead to 8, 17-25.

However, that was the closest that QQ could get, as San Antonio pushed up the tempo of the game in the second canto and played no let up in the second half en route to the whopping 38-point winning margin.

Nine of San Antonio's 10 players scored at least 7 points each, giving QQ no chance to pull off the second upset of the

night. Jaymark De Guzman paced San Antonio with his 20 points, while Nevin Salem contributed 16. Only Sison had twin digits for QQ with his 17.

First Game

KFC 62 – Black 14, Dela Rosa 12, Fernando 10, R. Francisco 9, Factor 7, M. Francisco 7, Maranan 3, Tinio 2.

Anjie's Boys 58 – Manglona 13, E. Caro 11, Javier 10, Mettao 9, Mamaril 6, Tudela 4, T. Caro 3.

Scoring by quarters: 14-18, 25-29, 37-43, 62-58.

Second Game

Gualo Rai 71 – Estolas 26, Lauron 12, Diaz 11, Dayrit 6,

Babauta 6, Galzote 4, Jose 2, Llagado 2.

Blue Haus 62 – Ogumoro 16, Fernandez 10, Itaas 8, Aquino 8, Galulu 7, Olivos 4, Capalad 2, Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-19, 38-33, 59-47, 71-62.

Third Game

Brgy. San Antonio 100 – De Guzman 20, Ne. Salem 16, Alegre 10, Ni. Salem 9, Aranda 9, Cadiang 8, Villanueva 8, Palacios 7, Bicera 2.

QQ Rent A Car 62 – Sison 17, Bondoc 9, Mangali 8, Concepcion 8, Montes 8, Lansang 8, Deleon Guerrero 2, Tuwon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-17, 54-35, 78-45, 100-62.

RMS

From Page 24

and before they knew it, RMS was positioned just 11 points from victory at halftime, 29-16. Tournament format hands an automatic win to the first team to score 40 points.

Hambros tallied a quick trio of baskets at the start of the second period and left it to Ben Lisua and Jun Norita to bring home the win. Tribes Bar's Paulo Darag and Jack Aranda combined for all but one basket of their team's total output. Hambros topped the field with 16 points.

In the second game, D&Q buried four three-pointers to keep pace with Century. However Paul Camacho and VJ

Nakayama combined for 13 points and they got additional baskets from four others as Century still took the lead, 21-17. Century then turned on its burners after the break and ran off with the win.

Chambre Bar's duo, Leo Galarse and Jeff Garcia, only needed 15 minutes to bump off Cosmos in the third pairing.

Galarse was just too much to handle and went to score 21 points and his right hand man, Garcia, added a dozen to help seal the deal. White Capalad managed the other needed buckets in the frame, while Cosmos' Marlon Sison was contained to 13 points in the rout.

Unfortunately the first half score was not recorded in the fourth quarterfinal game, but

the results implied it was a pretty close match all the way to the end.

Kelvin Fital showed off his shooting touch with 15 points to keep CTSI ahead of Connie Camacho and her Nami Bar crew.

The Nami Bar ladies put up a good fight as the match lasted through regulation, but CTSI seemed to always have an answer as JR Barrios, Maverick Itibus, and Walter Mendez came to Fital's aid to impose the win. Camacho managed 11 on the short end.

This Friday's semifinals will be played under two 15-minute halves with the event's special "race to 40 points" rule still in effect. The championship match will have two 20-minute halves and the "race to 40 points" rule

is omitted.

The champion team will take home \$400 worth of sports equipment, while \$300, \$200, and \$100 will go to the No. 2 to 4 finishers.

First Game

RMS 41 – Hambros 19, Mettao 9, Ogumoro 8, Lisua 2, Norita 2

Tribes Bar - Darag 16, Aran-

da 14, De Guzman 2.

Scoring by halves : 29-16, 41-33.

Second Game

Century 40 – JR 9, Santy 8, Nakayama 7, P. Camacho 6, I. Kapwich 4, J. Kapwich 4.

D&Q 26 – Morales 11, De Luna 9, Kwon 6.

Scoring by halves: 26-21, 40-26.

Third Game

Chambre Bar 41 – Galarse 21, Garcia 12, Capalad 8.

Cosmos 27 – Sison 13, Tudela 7, Sablan 5, Sanciangco 2.

Fourth Game

CTSI 41 – Fital 15, Barrios 10, Itibus 8, Mendez 6

Nami Bar 34 – C. Camacho 11, Johnson 8, Alegre 7, Atalig 7, Abrams 1.

Activity Schedule for Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012

2012 NMIFA Women's Fall Futsal League

5:30 PM:	B Division	MPU 2 vs. Paire
6:30 PM:	B Division	THFC vs. IFC 1
7:30 PM:	B Division	SFC vs. Matansa

Giants crush Cardinals to even NLCS

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lady Rays squeak past Lady Knights

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Ayanna Atalig converted a fastbreak basket to sneak Saipan Southern High School past Mount Carmel School, 44-43, during the varsity game in the 2012-2013 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Basketball League last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

With just 15 seconds left in regulation, Atalig intercepted a pass at midcourt and slashed to the basket to give her team their first taste of the lead
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Saipan Southern High School' Ayanna Atalig pulls up for the game-winning fastbreak basket against a Mount Carmel School defender during the closing seconds of their varsity game in the MISO caging last Monday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Rastguiy, Lee share JV MVP awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Whispering Palms swept the top individual honors in the junior varsity division of the 2012-2013 Coalition of Private School Sports Association Volleyball League after Negahr Rastguiy and Steven Lee were named most valuable players.

The two players were the steady force in Whispering Palms' perfect season, lifting the Terns to a 14-0 record in the regular season and leading their campaign in the playoffs. The diminutive Rastguiy stood tall in the competition, as she started Whispering Palms' set, consistently connected on her over hand serves, and also made tricky hits at the net in the play-offs where her team defeated Saipan International School A



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COPSSA junior varsity volleyball league MVPs Negahr Rastguiy, left, and Steven Lee of Whispering Palms pose with their medals during the awards ceremony last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

and Saipan Community School to clinch the JV championship. Lee gave Whispering Palms ceiling and power at the front-line. He teamed up with Troy



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The members of the Junior Varsity All-Star Selection pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the COPSSA volleyball league last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Young and Coli Ramsey in leading the Terns' attack.

Both Rastguiy and Lee are leaving Whispering Palms next year as they move up to high

school, so the MVP plums and championship trophies were fitting farewell gifts. The two MVPs received medals from
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DLX semis cast complete

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Three teams completed the semis cast in the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League as after rain suspended games for about one week, action finally resumed at the Gualo Rai Court last Monday night.

KFC/Taco Bell, Gualo Rai, and Brgy. San Antonio notched the last three tickets to

the Final Four and joined early semifinalist Zhaila's All-Starz after eliminating separate foes. The defending champion and Pool A fourth-ranked KFC stunned Pool B top finisher Anjie's Boys in the first game, 62-58; Gualo Rai resumed its rained-out match over Blue Haus and won in the second game, 71-62; and San Antonio whipped QQ Rent A Car in the closing tiff, 100-62.

The semis round is set for tonight with Zhaila's taking
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San Antonio's Bryle Alegre, third left, bumps into his teammate, Adrian Palacios, second left, as the former pulls up for a shot against QQ Rent A Car during their playoff game in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



RMS Spartan Rebels in Final Four

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Tan Holdings 40th Anniversary Sports Fest Open Basketball Tournament is now down to Final Four with the last team standing to be determined this Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The RMS' Spartan Rebels, Century Hotel's Central Ballers, Chambre Bar's Fast-8, and CTSI Logistics' Hoops made it to the semifinals after the play-off games over the weekend. Friday's opening semis pairing will have RMS taking on Cen-

tury, while Chambre Bar will face CTSI in the second semis tiff. Winners of the two matches will collide in the winner-take all finals at 7:45pm or after the consolation game.

RMS advanced after ousting Tribes Bar's Rectify, 41-33; Century defeated D&Q International Distributors, 40-26; Chambre Bar routed Docomo Pacific's Cosmos, 41-27; and CTSI knocked off Nami Bar's Girl Power, 41-34.

Ham Hambros carried the bulk of the load for RMS in the first quarterfinal match. His 13 points went with the welcomed 9 markers from Frank Mettao
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